

Albany Old Times

Albany & Camp Adair—A mutual attraction

Excerpt from Part Three: 'Scrap Drives, Rationing, and Camp Adair' *Gem of the Willamette Valley: A History of Albany, Oregon*, will be available for purchase at the Museum in early December for \$24.95, and \$22.45 for Members. Call the Museum at 541.967.7122, or drop by to place your name on the pre-order list.

By Ed Loy,
Museum Member

In the autumn of 1942, the first draftees reported to the newly completed Camp Adair. For the next fourteen months they breathed the coal smoke of the barracks' furnaces, bivouacked in the Oregon rain, and crawled around in stands of Willamette Valley poison oak.

The townsfolk of Albany generally welcomed the

construction of Camp Adair. The arrival of soldiers and civilians blessed local merchants with a steady source of new customers with money in their pockets. Friendships between Albany girls and visiting soldiers developed, with a few relationships leading to marriage.

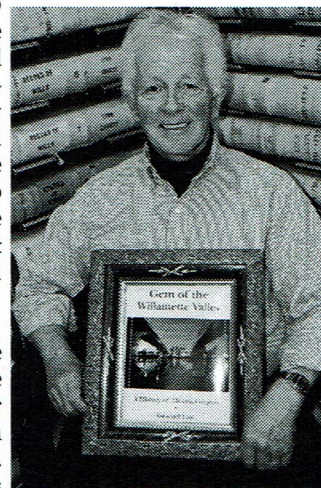
The rapid influx of army personnel and several thousand civilian construction workers into the area strained Albany's supply of available housing. Among the city's immediate problems was regulating the use of trailers, shacks and other inappropriate structures as dwellings. One newly-married soldier reflected on the challenge of finding suitable living quarters:

"As a married man and as Lonnie

and I could find an apartment, I moved off the Post. It was very difficult to find any place to live near Camp Adair, but we found a small one-room apartment in Albany with a shared bathroom. There was really no kitchen so we ate out a lot at a neighborhood café."

Albany became the favorite destination for many troops with weekend passes. John Baker [in his book about Camp Adair] related the story of one young soldier:

We went there most often because we liked to walk in the residential Neighborhoods to remind us of home. In Albany you could be in a neighborhood a block from downtown. On one weekend pass this lady came out of her house and called to us. "Soldier boys, soldier boys, come in and have a piece of peach pie." "Lady, we don't know you," we called back. "You will," she answered back, "after you've had a piece of my peach pie." That's why we always liked Albany best for spending a weekend pass.



Author Edward Loy

Veteran, rookie honored at Annual Meeting

Albany Regional Museum Annual Meeting Minutes – October 22, 2014

Judie Weissert, Executive Director, welcomed members and guests and introduced

the speaker for the first half of the evening. Finn J.D. John, Oregon State University instructor, gave an entertaining presentation on William Steel, Albany Democrat-Herald publisher, who was instrumental in getting Crater Lake designated as a National Park.

Judie then introduced the Museum staff and turned the meeting over to Kristen Schuttpeitz, Board Chair, who delivered the State of the Museum for 2014. Kristen shared many of the highlights of the past year, including events, exhibits, and remodeling projects.

Kristen thanked the many volunteers and Board members for their time and support over the past year. Volunteers gave over 3,117.75 hours in 2014, and the annual visitor total was 7,399, an increase of 1,160 visitors over the prior year.

Darrel Tedisch read the minutes from 2013 and they were approved as read.

Shannon Leland-Willard shared the financial report with revenues coming in \$700 more than anticipated, with two-thirds of that from the interest on our two endowments

(Continued on Pages 3 & 7)



Volunteering side by side, rookie Susan Lewis and veteran Mary Arnett, (l-r), hand out candy to over 900 trick-or-treaters at the Museum on Oct. 25. Lewis has been volunteering for a year in a variety of roles—from hospitality to delivering the newsletter and flyers to downtown businesses. Arnett has amassed over 900 volunteer hours, and is the "go to" individual on short notice.

E & E Calendar Events & Exhibits

Sunday, December 7
ADA's "Twice Around the Block Parade" 5 pm

Sunday, December 14
AVA annual Parlor Tour with Legacy Ballet performing dances from the Nutcracker
Community Room - 2-7 pm

Saturday, December 20
"History Bites" – 'All about Toy Trains' with Bill Maddy
Community Room - Noon

Wednesday, January 14
"History Bites" – Local authors panel discussion
Community Room - Noon

Wednesday, February 11
"History Bites" – 'The Udder Story' with Bill Maddy (A repeat of popular local dairy industry topic)
Community Room - Noon

Burch, Burkhart, and Cowgill elected to Board

By Addie Maguire,
Museum Member

This October, the Albany Regional Museum Board of Directors welcomed three new members. Dennis Burkhart, Gary Burch, and Scott Cowgill were unanimously elected to the Board at the October Annual Meeting.

Shannon Leland-Willard and Bill Maddy have resigned from the Board, Dennis Burkhart will be staying for another term. These diverse individuals all plan to contribute their varying skills and backgrounds to further enrich the Museum's vibrant presence in the community

Dennis Burkhart has worked for many years in the plywood business and for Target Distribution Center. His family has lived in Albany for four generations and he became involved with the Museum by donating artifacts. He has since served on the Board for a year, been on the Facilities and Collections Committees, and is in the process of helping to organize

and identify the large Bob Potts Photography Collection. Dennis has always enjoyed history and would like to research more about his family. He would like to see the Board progress and make plans to rotate exhibits.

Gary Burch worked for the State Employment Department as an accountant and served six years in the U.S. Navy working in data processing and computer programming. He grew up in Shedd and became involved with the Albany Regional Museum two years ago. In 1900, Burch's grandmother came to Oregon at the age of seventeen; learning about her inspired him to research more of his family history in Oregon. Gary is on the Facilities

Committee and helped renovate the Community Room this past year. Burch plans to help with exhibits and continue to keep the Museum functional.

Scott Cowgill is an attorney at Weatherford & Thompson Law Firm in downtown Albany. Growing up in Albany, he was drawn to the Albany Regional Museum through his high school debate coach, Kris Schuttpeltz, who is now Chair of the Board. Scott is also interested in Albany's downtown history and the original locations of historical buildings. As a fifth generation attorney in the Weatherford family, and with his knowledge in accounting, he plans to help the Board update bylaws and improve budgets.

Wish List...

To enhance our Mission, the Museum would like an event sandwich board with removable letters to gain more street visibility. A slide scanner would increase our collections capabilities, and archival boxes and sleeves are always appreciated.

Museum Board, Staff

Museum Directors:

Kristen Schuttpeltz, Chair
Darrel Tedisch, Vice-Chair
Kay Burt, Secretary
Mary Arnett
Cathy Baker
Gary Burch
Dennis Burkhart
Scott Cowgill
David F. Fitchett
Erik Rau
Julie Sipe

Liaisons:

Rebecca Bond,
Albany Visitors Center

Board Member Emeritus:

Gerald Brenneman

Staff:

Judie Weissert, Director
Megan Lallier-Barron, Exhibits & Collections Coordinator
Peggy Kowal, Member & Visitor Services
Addie Maguire, Collections Specialist
Shannon Leland-Willard, Bookkeeper
Ruth Dietrich, Proofreader
Kay Burt, Editor



Addie's Addition...Collections care

By Addie Maguire,
Collection Specialist

In a pile of seemingly random papers and miscellaneous objects, I found a map. Inspecting it, I realized the map was actually a top secret battle strategy from WWII detailing an invasion of Tokyo from sea. How long had this priceless piece of history been quietly sitting here in the Albany Regional Museum collections?

Using the skill set I gained from working in collections at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, I have been tasked to identify, catalog, and preserve unidentified artifacts in the Albany Regional Museum collections. Hundreds of artifacts in our collections have been neglected, spanning from the 1980s to the present. It has proven difficult to fully manage such a comprehensive collection with only a part-time staff and volunteers. This presents a problem, not only to researchers but to our Museum as we move forward with rotating exhibits and displays. How can we fully represent Albany's historical artifacts if we don't have a complete knowledge of what exists in our collection?

Thank-you, donors

A recent "wish list" request yielded the following donations: Two racks and photo scanner from Ed & Pat Loy; a fireplace heater for the Volunteer Room from Gary & Brenda Burch; and five chairs for a kids' activity area from Wayne & Joanne Chambers.

The solution lies in giving our diverse collection the attention and care it should have. I have created a Volunteer Project list for lengthier projects, and a Found In Collection accession, consisting of approximately 85 artifacts, dedicated to objects not otherwise connected to any other accession. This project has made considerable progress with the help of volunteer Duwayne Strauser, and I am currently working on the second floor collections. All objects which were in the Collections Office have been identified, catalogued, and preserved. There are shelving units on the second floor dedicated to this project where catalogued artifacts are now organized and better preserved.

However, there is still work to be done. The goal is to have all objects in our collection easily accessible for researchers and Museum staff. Volunteer projects will be organized and prioritized. More shelving will be used to preserve and organize artifacts. Important historical collections are now in PastPerfect and preserved. These collections include: geological survey maps of Albany and Oregon, scientific instruments from the Bureau of Mines, and medicine bottles from Albany drugstores.

A year ago, there were hundreds of unidentified artifacts in the Albany Regional Museum collections. Now these artifacts are being identified and will better serve the Museum as part of an historical narrative. It is a wonderful thing to make history readily available to the community, and always an adventure to see what the future holds for our historic collections. It continues to be my honor to protect the stories and artifacts of Albany, Oregon.

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

A day at the Museum...

Strauser parlays interests into volunteer opportunities

By Addie Maguire,
Museum Member

A year ago, Duwayne Strauser stopped by the Albany Regional Museum to research a house, specifically a haunted house. Co-founder of Northwest Research Group of Paranormal Investigators (NRG-PI), Duwayne had been investigating the history of the house and its previous residents when he became interested in volunteer work at the Museum.

Since then, he has volunteered in various capacities by helping with school tours, handing out candy to Halloween trick-or-treaters, and cataloging. Recently, he presented his experiences as a paranormal investigator at the October History Bites, relating his two hobbies with the historical research needed for a thorough paranormal investigation. In the Albany Regional Museum collections, he has catalogued maps, photographs, and is currently organizing the personal effects of Harlin Talbert, a vaudeville actor who once resided in Albany.

In 1972 Duwayne served eleven months with the US Army in Vietnam. He saw action working as a helicopter mechanic and in an armed personnel carrier. Returning stateside from his tour in Vietnam to Fort Riley, Kansas, he was sent to work at the Army's

Cavalry Museum. "We literally had to push the door open [of this huge attic]," Duwayne says, laughing. "There were boxes everywhere." A large part of the Museum's collection had been uncatalogued and he helped to catalogue cavalry artifacts such as pistols, sabers, and saddles.



Duwayne Strauser (far right) recounts his experiences with the paranormal at the Oct. 18 "History Bites" to Randy and Laurie Lloyd, Carlos Zavala, and Mary Arnett, (l-r).

Membership, Visitors & Events Update

New Members

since June 1, 2014:

Individual: Barbara Buchanan, Laurie Buchanan, Virginia Burkhart, Carol Cooper, Veda Cowgill, Ginny Dickson, Dave Engel, Marilyn Feldman, Brian Hardenburger, Wayne Hawke, Patty Joy, Kevin Lee, Joseph Licavoli, Bev Morgan, Kyle Odegard, Richard Olsen, and Parnell Person.

Family: Aleta & Josh Carper, Scott & Ashley Cowgill, John & Kathy Griffiths, Earl & Linda Spires, Rosemary Staff & Richard Walden, Robert A. & Patricia M. Tucker,

and Ross & Cheryl Wootan. Business: Martin & Gayle Griffith.

It's been a few busy months. In August, 85 members gathered for the Annual Membership Ice Cream Social. Later, we hosted 208 enthusiastic geocachers. In September, 271 visited during the Craft Brew Beer Smackdown. During the downtown Trick or Treat, the Museum saw 962 come thru the doors. Veterans Day was a beautiful warm day, so our numbers were down; only 125 came in for coffee, hot chocolate and cookies. These events helped

bring the visitorship to 2,469 from August 1 to mid-November.

In October, the Community Room hosted the Annual Membership Meeting and the Museum's first blood drive. Almost every week the Community Room is busy with Museum meetings or nonprofit groups. The Lebanon and Albany Adult Chamber Leadership classes and the Albany Chamber Youth Leadership class once again toured the Museum.

--Peggy Kowal, Member & Visitor Services Coordinator

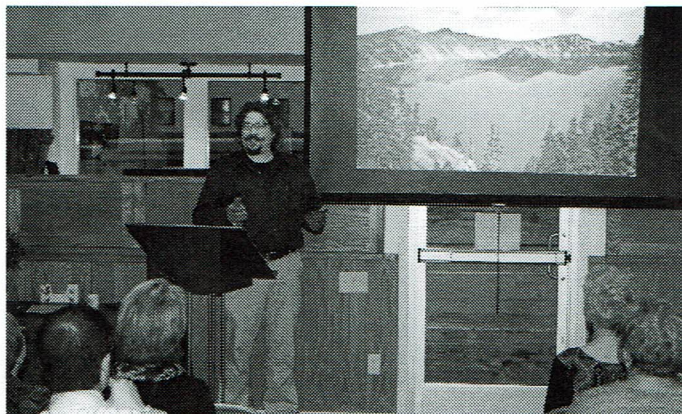
Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page 1)

provided by the Sharps and the Tripps. Museum expenses totaled \$113,000, which was less than budgeted. Utilities, building maintenance, insurance, and construction supplies continue to increase, and we will need to keep them under control. Overall, the Museum is doing a good job of operating within its means.

Judie presented the "Rookie of the Year" award to Susan Lewis, a young woman who volunteers weekly at the Museum. Peggy Kowal presented the "Volunteer

(Continued on Page 7)



Finn J.D. John, an OSU instructor, author, and public historian, entertained Museum Members with the story of William Gladstone Steel, who helped get Crater Lake designated as a national park. (Photo courtesy of Rolland Brower).

ARM MEMBERSHIP FORM

To renew or begin your annual membership, fill in the form below :

_____ Individual	\$15
_____ Family	\$25
_____ Business Friends	\$50
_____ Museum Patrons	\$150
_____ History Circle	\$250
_____ Kalapuya Club	\$500

Amount enclosed \$ _____



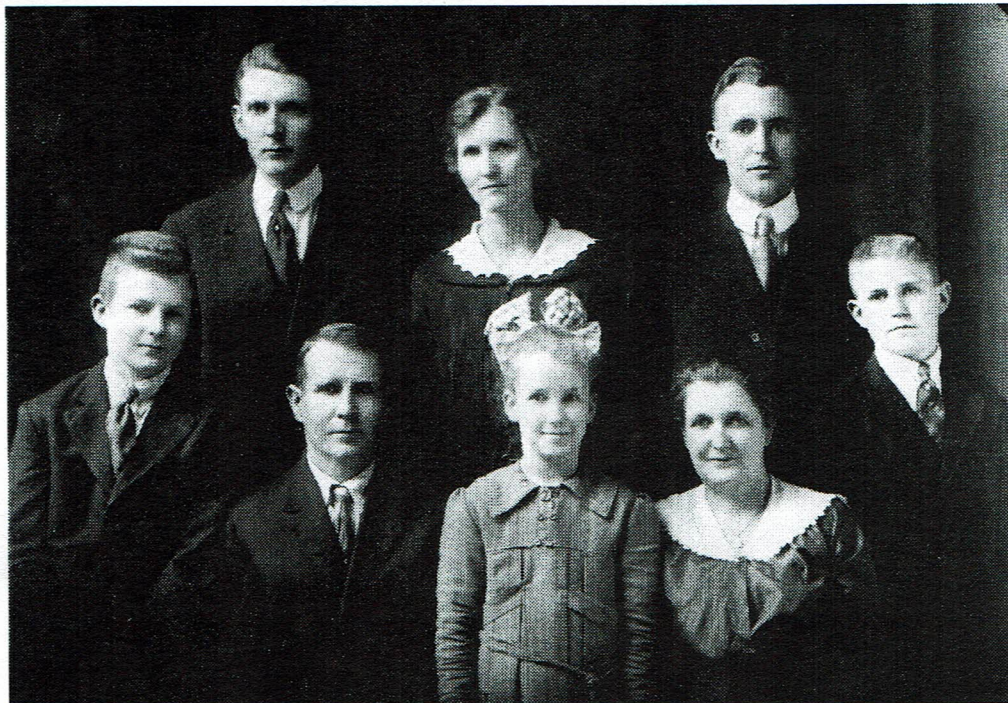
MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Name(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____
 Zip _____ Phone _____
 E-mail _____

We are a nonprofit 501 C-3 organization.

Albany Regional Museum
 136 Lyon St., S, Albany, OR 97321
 541.967.7122

www.armuseum.com
 facebook.com/albanyregionalmuseum



Third Generation. William Looney and wife Katherine on the Anthony Looney Homestead on Looney Lane, circa 1912. Top left: Myrvle, Myrtle, and Jed (fourth generation). Lower left: Russell, William, Florence, Katherine, and Dell. (Photo courtesy of Bill Looney)



At the Perfect Farm: (top left) Jed and Adranna Perfect-Looney; (lower left) Merilee and Thad. Circa 1927. (Photo courtesy of Bill Looney)

Looney Family heirs continue strong ties to the land

(In the Spring Edition of Albany Old Times, readers were introduced to the first generation of the Looney Family to homestead in the Willamette Valley. This article chronicles the subsequent generations to the present day).

By Bill Looney,
Museum Member

A

nthony and Mary Looney had eight children while living on the Looney Lane Donation Land

Claim property. William, their eldest son, became heir to the farm and married Katherine Ackerman around 1890. They bore six children: Myrvle, Myrtle, Jed, Russell, Dell, and Florence. Jed is my grandfather, and the rest are great-uncles and great-aunts.

William Looney bought 160 acres at Upper Soda in 1900 still owned by the Looney Family. His elder sons worked a sawmill up in the east Cascades while William and Katherine started a business for travelers who came over what is now Highway 20 from Sweet Home to Bend. They fed travelers and took care of their horses. They owned and continued to operate the Looney Lane property, farming crops as well.

Older brother Myrvle became heir to the Looney Lane property, although his brother Jed was supposed to be a partner in the farm, but he enlisted in the army during World War I, fighting in France. His father, William, said: "I will make sure President Wilson never sees the light of day if you do not come back alive from that war!" Lucky for Wilson, Jed came back home alive and was given a payment by Myrvle not to farm the family property. Myrvle passed the farm to his daughter, Ruth Looney Jenks. Her brother Jack trained pilots for the war against Japan. He tested a plane, wanting to fight and finish the war but the plane crashed in the Pacific Ocean, where he perished. The Jenks Family own the Anthony Looney Century Farm to this day, and we are grateful it still exists with relatives.

My grandfather Jed married Adranna Perfect in September, 1919 at Albany's Whitespires Church. In North Albany, Jed and Adra worked the 40-plus acre farm, raising produce to sell to the "mom and pop" stores of the time. Jed's muskmelons were the best in the territory, and that was his claim to fame in Albany. High school students often crossed the Willamette River, stealing them at night. A few years ago, an

80-year-old woman apologized to me for stealing Jed's melons. I joked and said, "The interest on your account owed is sizable!" We laughed. She was one of many who stole melons. My dad, Thad, became the "collector" as he grew older. He hid and caught many teens, and I think he pocketed the money.

Jed drove to Albany first, and hoped to sell all of his produce before arriving in Newport. He usually sold all along the road before reaching the coast. He retired at 70. Jed and Adra bore Merilee and Thad, in 1920 and 1924, respectively. Sixteen years and seven months from her birth, Merilee died of gangrene on her Uncle Russell's farm in Dusty, Washington. She was riding on a tractor and fell onto a disk that sliced open her leg. It should have been amputated, and she died a short time after her parents and Thad arrived. My father became intensely motivated from that time forward. He was just 13.

Many of you readers knew Thad Looney: High school football star, carpenter, first-generation farmer at Oakville. He worked two jobs for 25 years, being blessed with incredible physical strength, stamina, and drive. He died earlier this year at 90.

Thad married Louise Deviney in 1946 after he served in the Navy at Dutch Harbor and the Philippines. They had three children—Michael, Linda, and me. Thad worked tirelessly until he was 80. He had built many churches, houses, and commercial buildings for Buerge Construction.

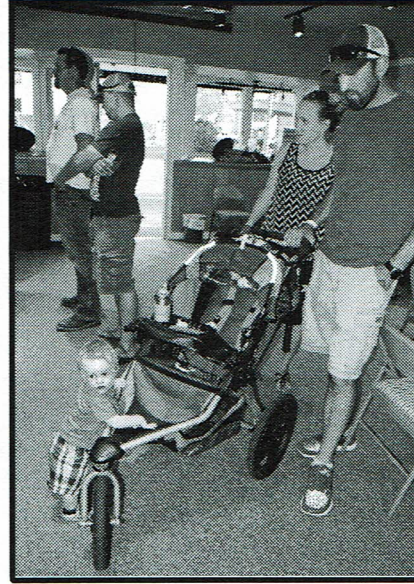
Michael farmed as a young man, then served in the Navy in Vietnam, worked for Wah Chang, and died early at 51. Linda Looney Standiford lives on the Perfect Farm where our father grew up. Her husband, Louie, served in Vietnam, was a Gulf fisherman, moved back to Oregon and died early at 50. I married Maureen Lowry and we worked the Oakville Farm and had two children, Nate and Jack. Both live in Albany and plan to continue the farm that my father and mother started; we are happy about that.

Our parents, my brother, and brother-in-law are gone now. Carol Davin, great-uncle Russell's daughter, is the last Looney from the World War II generation, and lives in Walla Walla, WA. Our roots are deep in Oregon and Linn County, but our respect is with all the immigrants who followed our family to a wonderful area of the state.

Museum Outreach



McHenry Remodeling employees install the interpretive sign at Albany Masonic Cemetery in September. Mike McHenry, a resident of the Broadway neighborhood, donated labor and materials. The sign was designed by Megan Lallier-Barron, ARM's collections and exhibits coordinator, and paid for from an Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries grant.



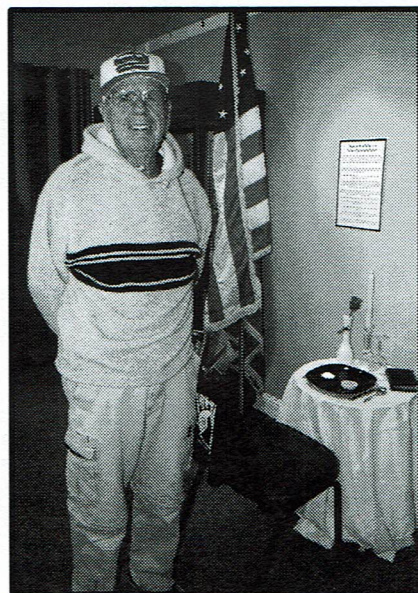
Erik and Rachel Larkin, with son Brantley (10 months), wait for a beer sample during Albany's Beer Smackdown on September 19. The Museum and DeLuxe Brewing co-hosted a stop, and 270 beer enthusiasts came through the Community Room doors.



The Community Room was turned into a Red Cross blood donation center on Oct. 24. Albany residents Greg Sladczik and Lisl M. Johnson, were among those who donated fourteen pints, enough blood to save 42 lives.



Albany residents Beth and Jim Ammon admire a vintage camera used by J.G. Crawford in his downtown photography studio at the turn of the century. It is one of 100 objects and photos displayed at the Museum in honor of Albany's 150th anniversary of incorporation. Another 50 photos can be seen in various downtown business windows.



Veteran Don Seiber from Sweet Home enjoys the various Veterans Day displays ringing the Community Room on Nov. 11 before the parade begins. Next to Seiber is "The Fallen Comrade Table." A similar Semi-official display was often placed in honor in many U.S. armed forces dining room facilities. A single rose signifies blood that was sacrificed to ensure freedom, the slice of lemon denotes the bitter fate of the missing, and salt sprinkled on the plate represents countless fallen tears of families as they wait.



Author Ed Loy answers questions from interested guests who attended a reception and a reading of excerpts from *Gem of the Willamette Valley: A History of Albany, Oregon*. Oscar Hult read a cutting from the Oregon Trail, Mary Arnett read from original letters by Mark Weatherford to JK Weatherford about his WWI experiences in Paris, Mary Jacq Burck read a romantic letter exchange between Mary and Walter Monteith, and David Fitchett read a vivid diary reaction to the vote regarding prohibition and womans suffrage. Ninety-five attended the event.

Board trio reminisce and look to Albany's future

(This is the final installment in a four-part series on aspects of life in Albany as we celebrate its 150th anniversary of incorporation).

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Member

Doors left unlocked, bicycles that were never stolen, and the freedom children had to come and go pretty



Six-year-old Mary Arnett on her new birthday bike in July 1945. Note the jaunty hair ribbons.

much as they pleased, are examples of what some longtime residents remember about growing up in Albany.

Albany Regional Museum board members Dennis Burkhart, Mary Arnett and Darrel Tedisch responded to questions concerning what they like and appreciate about Albany's past and present and what their hopes are for the city, primarily in an historical context.

Dennis Burkhart, who is descended from the town's early founders, remembers that children and adults rarely stepped out of line because punishment could be severe.

He recalls being allowed to walk on Saturday mornings from Main Street and Seventh Avenue

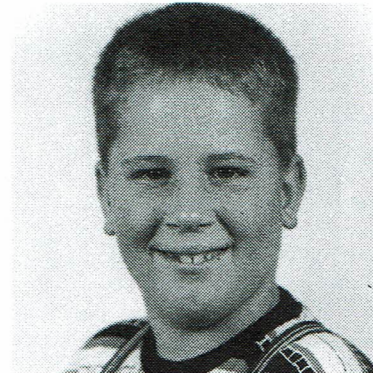
downtown to the Venetian Theater to watch movies. Now he says it's fun to go to the Pix Theatre to see first-run movies, especially when the operators offer food pairings in conjunction with a film.

"As a child, I didn't realize the significance of being part of a pioneer family until I started to study the history of Albany in high school," Burkhart said. "We have the privilege of having our 'Auntie' Virginia Burkhart, who is a font of information of all branches of the family."

She is a cousin to Burkhart's father, Del, but as Dennis' only living older relative she is more like an aunt.

By working at the Museum helping to catalog photographs in the Bob Potts' collection and by serving on the board, Burkhart said he has learned a lot about the family that he previously did not know.

As for what's ahead for Albany, "Watching the revitalization of the downtown is wonderful to see," he



'Fashion Plate' Dennis Burkhart's third grade photo at Madison School, taken in 1955.

said. Mary Arnett lived in Albany from age four in 1943 until 1968, returning 35 years later.

The most memorable part of her childhood was the feeling of safety and that she could be gone from home all day if she wanted.

"It was not necessary to be in constant contact with our parents, and we all seemed to have a built-in clock to be home by a certain time or at least check in from a friend's phone," she said. "We would go to the park, ride bikes, visit the swimming pool or stop at the neighborhood store: (Brunskill's comes to mind) and everyone had a charge account.

After returning to Albany she finds, "I really appreciate all of the restoration projects, completed and in progress....the houses and downtown structures."

She believes Albany to be a friendly, down-to-earth city, where there are lots of smiles and "some very generous donors."

Arnett is impressed with the city's Talking Water Gardens, the carousel now under construction, and she appreciates the city's pledging money to renew and rejuvenate the downtown.

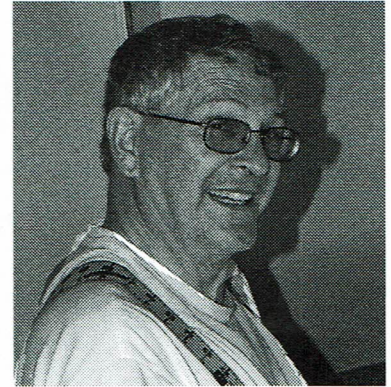
"The city is continually investigating possibilities for downtown core improvements, which are very important to preserving Albany's history, then, now and for the vibrancy of the future," she said.

Albany's former fire chief Darrel Tedisch has lived in the city all of his life, but it wasn't until going to work for the fire department "that I began to understand the city's rich history.

"Progressive and visionary founding fathers who knew what they wanted for the community provided Albany with many alternative transportation systems, including steamboats, stagecoaches, trains and roads - the hub of Oregon," he said.

The founders also created state-of-the-art schools, including a college, and the Albany-Santiam Canal provided power and clean drinking water and powered many mills and businesses.

Tedisch appreciates the "beautiful and ornate" business buildings and the "rich selection" of homes that date back to the mid-1800s. Besides the town's architecture, Tedisch is proud of the city's Veterans Day



Darrel Tedisch is the Museum's facilities chair and enjoys hands-on restoration and renovation work.

Parade, parks system, Talking Water Gardens and the city leaders' foresight to use public money to revitalize downtown.

He credits the Monteith and regional museums for renewing and making known Albany's history.

"I am especially proud of the Albany Regional Museum's work to expand, preserve and make available to the public an understanding of what Albany was all about," Tedisch said.

"I look at Albany today and am proud to see the same spirit, vision, determination and willingness by community leaders to provide a vision for Albany as was done in its beginning," he said.

Memorial Roll adds two: James Martin & Jeannette Reid

Two individuals have been added to the Museum's Memorial Roll since the fall issue of Albany Old Times. They are James "Jimmy" Martin and Jeannette Reid.

Martin grew up in Albany and graduated from West Albany High School where he served as the sports equipment manager all four years. He was awarded the Tom Holman Spirit Award his senior year.

Reid was born near Crabtree and was a founding member of Albany Tennis Club. She enjoyed art and was a carver at the Brass Ring Carousel.

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 year on the Memorial Tree 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 by phone or email, or stop by the reception desk at 136 Lyon St., S for further information.

Student writer recounts Albany Fire Dept. history

(Last spring, Albany Options School instructor, Anna Harryman, brought her class to the Tripp Reference Room to write research papers about Albany area history. Harryman submitted this paper for publication).

By Shamiqa Gosnell, Grade 12

In 1868, the Albany Fire Department did not exist, though the need for one was obvious. In January 1869, "Albany Engine Company No. 1" was formed and a hand-drawn pumper was purchased. Seven years later on a spring day in May, 1876, a new engine arrived in the Albany train depot from New York, after the order was placed in 1875.

According to Kerry Bohanan, author of a pamphlet entitled History of the Fire Department, after receiving the steamer, it was time for the "great demonstration." Starting with cold water in the boiler, the engine provided five pounds of steam in four-and-a-half minutes, and working steam in nine. The engine threw a solid stream 2221.5 feet, using 100 feet of hose, and nozzle measuring 11/8 inches.

The first fire department staff consisted of J.L. Cowan and Joseph Webber, who was a former fireman from San Francisco, and served as first foreman. Alongside them was L.N. Legget, elected president of Albany Engine Co. No. 1, and Dr. Gray, president of Engine Co. No. 2. Some other staff were P.H. Raymond, C. Keifer, L.E. Blain, Eugene Bohanan, and many others. According to Kerry Bohanan, firefighting was not a paid job until 1892 when J.R. Watt was elected fire chief. Wyatt's pay was \$20 per quarter.

During February 1878, the term "president" was changed to "fire chief," or "fire engineer," according to Bohanan. This changed after the Linn and Albany engine companies joined to form the Albany Fire Department. Joseph Webber was the first to have the official title as fire chief. The second was J.R. Wyatt.

J.R. Wyatt started his term as fire chief in 1892. During this time, a

new Clapp and Jones Steam Engine was purchased for \$3,000. The engines were to be tended to at all times by the engineers, the most important men in firefighting. Not only did they have to keep the engines in working condition, but they had to keep the engines running at all times. There was always at least one engineer on each fire engine, and they were paid about \$20 per month, according to Bohanan. There were multiple engines that failed because they were not being run properly before departure, he said.



Don Hayne, who served 39 years in the Albany Fire Department, including 27 years as chief, salvages the wooden plaque which identifies Albany's number two fire hall, built about 1877. It was Albany's first permanent-structure fire hall and was located on Lyon Street between First and Second Avenues. (Albany Democrat-Herald photo, March 20, 1972).

Until the replacement of the pumpers, the Albany Fire Department had experienced twenty different fire chiefs. After that, there were another three before Fire Chief Donald Hayne, who served from 1934 through 1963. Hayne had started work for the department in 1929, earning \$100 a month for working 138 hours a week, according to a September 1998 *Democrat-Herald* article called "Ceremony dedicates two new stations." Fire Chief Darrel Tedisch (1987-99) led the ceremony, dedicating the first fire halls built since 1974. He dedicated the department's Sixth Avenue station to Chief Hayne and the 34th Avenue station to the late James Myers (1966-79).

While Hayne was chief, the department advanced tremendously. In 1951, a new station was built on Sixth Avenue and Lyon Street. New equipment was purchased, and more advanced firefighting methods were learned, according to Bohanan. More firemen were hired as the population grew. Hayne switched to fire trucks that carried water, implemented a fire prevention program, and oversaw the building of the Sixth Avenue station, insisting it have a training tower, according to an article by Cathy Ingalls of the *Democrat-Herald*.

Meiers' achievements were implementing a three-platoon system at each station, starting industrial fire badges at Oremet and Western Kraft, building the 34th Avenue Station and Fire Museum next door. According to Ingalls, the museum was the first in Oregon. Meiers also bought a thermal imaging unit, embracing the idea of bringing ambulances into the fire services. Alongside purchasing these items, he bought the department's first "Jaws of Life" hydraulic rescue tool.

Hwy. 99: 'The Folk History' available at Museum

Jo-Brew and Pat Edwards are announcing the publication of their new book, OREGON'S MAIN STREET: U.S. Highway 99 "The Folk History."

This fully-indexed second book, "The Folk History," is 554 pages, and contains 421 pictures and covers the folk history of not only Pacific Highway, which later became U.S.

Highway 99 through Oregon, but of its beginnings as an animal trail that was eventually used by Native tribes, trappers, miners, wagons, stagecoaches and the railroad.

"The Folk History" is available at the Museum Book Store for \$22 for visitors and \$19.80 for Members. Their first book, "The Stories" can still be purchased for \$17.

Annual Meeting

(Continued from Page 3)

of the Year" award to Mary Arnett, our "go-to-volunteer," who helps whenever possible. Her knowledge of historical Albany is incredible, and an asset for staff and volunteers.

Three outgoing Board members were acknowledged for their service: Bill Maddy, Shannon Leland-Willard, and Dennis Burkhart. New Board candidates were announced: Gary Burch, Scott Cowgill, and Dennis Burkhart (filling a one-year term). It was moved and seconded that the slate of candidates be approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 pm.
Respectfully submitted,
Judie Weissert, secretary pro tem



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Looking Back: Vietnam defines White's world view

(In the summer issue of Albany Old Times, White recalled his impressions of living through the early 60s while in high school. We pick up what he terms a "more memorable experience" in the latter part of that decade).

By Louie White, Museum Member

The remainder of the decade had the most significant impact on my life. Fast forward—I'm in a US Navy bus at Pier Echo in the Long Beach Naval Shipyard in southern California, looking out the window at this ugly haze grey thing, with a flat top and wondering what I had gotten into. Then I got out of the bus and saw the rest of it. Three football fields long, I was looking at the aircraft carrier *USS Kearsarge*. That ship and the flat top were to be my home for the next four years. I was on the ground floor of a "million dollar experience you wouldn't give a dime for." It was that and so much more. What most of us back then never gave a thought to was we handed Uncle Sam a blank check payable up to and including our very lives. During the decade, a whole lot of us handed Uncle that check, and he cashed parts, and sometimes all of it. I'm one of the lucky ones: He didn't take much of mine.

I was a bomb loader on the *Kearsarge* and it was a real boring and exciting time. A cultural shock for a kid off the farm out of Crabtree. To this day I get haired up when I see anything relating to air ops on a carrier. We got an extended cruise when the North Koreans seized the *USS Pueblo*--a month of operations in the Sea of Japan in -30 degree weather. Dayton Hodges of Cottage Grove lost his life in that attack.

Many other things happened to make those four years memorable,

but so removed from a lot of Sixties high-jinks. It was hardball, and things happened that were out of our control. Crew members lost their lives now and then. Naval disasters happened close by. The *Forrestal* and *Oriskany* disasters, the Australian carrier *HMS Melbourne* struck the *USS Frank E. Evans* DDE and cut her in half midships. The bow section sank in less than three minutes, taking 78 crew members down. Three brothers were among those lost. We took on the survivors, including one chief petty officer, whose son went down in the bow section. We crossed the equator where I got the snot beat out of me with fire hoses, among other things. Our captain broke his big toe during his "shellback" initiation.

Things back home didn't really dominate our thoughts, and as such, we didn't get a whole lot of the negative happenings. So many of my brothers and sisters who served in Vietnam were subjected to the actions of miscreants at home, and my heart goes out to them. Fortunately, in Albany we knew how to treat our vets and still do to this day.

I remember sitting in the shop on the ship when Buzz Man Aldrin made his walk on the moon. He and John Glenn more or less put the decade in brackets. Those two, along with Bob Hope and Hugh O'Brien, were our guests in Albany years ago. On November 11, 1969, I was sitting in the Truck Stop Café on Pacific Boulevard as a rubber-tracked tank headed for the parade. I made a comment to no one in particular, "Good to know they are friendlies." This pretty much closed out the decade for me as I returned to civilian life, back to Simpson Plywood and preparing for LBCC.