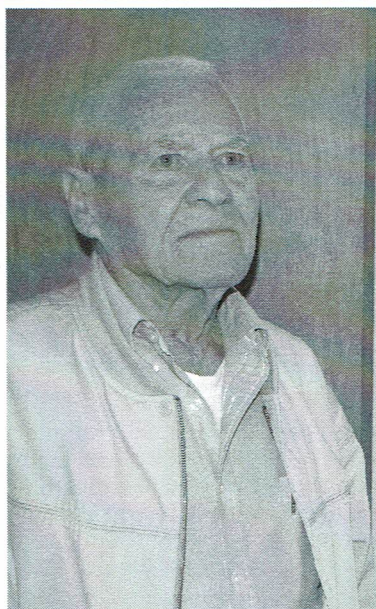


Albany Old Times



David Russell recalls the kamikaze raid on the *USS Mahan*. The commemorative picture is one of several in his den, given to him by his family.

The Unsinkable David Russell— Seaman survives Pearl Harbor, Leyte battles

By Ed Loy,
Museum Member

David Russell was born in Auburn, NE, in 1920. For a boy growing up in the Midwest during the Great Depression, times were hard, and jobs were scarce. To earn a regular paycheck, David joined the Civilian Conservation Corps for wages of \$30 per month, \$25 of which the government required

him to send home. Then in November 1939, he enlisted in the US Navy. In January he reported for basic training, and by March of 1940, Seaman Russell was serving aboard the battleship *USS Oklahoma*, based alternately out of Pearl Harbor, HI, and San Pedro, CA.

On December 7, 1941, Seaman First Class David Russell awoke at 0530 reveille to what

(Continued on Page 9)

E & E

Calendar Events & Exhibits

Sunday, December 13
36th Annual
Christmas Parlour Tour
Museum will be open – 2-7 pm

Friday, December 18
35th Anniversary of the Museum
Refreshments . Public invited
2-4 pm

Wednesday, January 13
History Bites -
Local Authors Panel
Community Room - Noon

Wednesday, February 10
History Bites – TBA
Community Room - Noon

Saturday, February 27
“A Night at the Museum for
Families of all Ages.” Activities,
movies, magician, hot dogs &
refreshments – 6-8 pm

Wednesday, March 9
History Bites - History of Coffee
with Addie Maguire
Community Room - Noon

Four honored for volunteerism at Annual Meeting

A vintage TV documentary, a State of the Museum overview, and Volunteer of the Year award recognition, were the highlights of the Annual Membership Meeting held on October 15 in the Community Room.

After visiting and refreshments, Members took a trip down memory lane, viewing a 1957 Channel 8-KGW documentary about Albany’s burgeoning metals industry. The 40-minute special filmed scenes in a bustling

downtown and at the expanding Wah Chang and OreMet plants. Highlights included Bob Ross’s interviews on-site with Wah Chang President, Stephen Yih; OreMet’s Steve Shelton, and Albany’s Chamber of Commerce President, Hal Byer.

Board Chair Darrel Tedisch presented an overview of 2014-15 accomplishments. Among them were accommodating 7,045 visitors, logging 3,001 volunteer hours, and adding Collections

Manager Addie Maguire to the staff. The successful launching of Ed Loy’s book on the history of Albany, underwritten by the Museum, was a highlight, as well as the successful launching of new exhibits and paying tribute to Albany’s rare metals industry.

In the nuts-and-bolts of running a Museum, Tedisch said that new bylaws were written, there was an increase in activities revenue, and the 35-to-35 campaign fund has been a success. Tedisch also listed

successful outreach events such as the Albany Masonic Cemetery Tour, Afternoon Tea, blood drive, and monthly History Bites, which continues to grow in popularity.

A short business meeting included the reading of the 2014 minutes by Board Member Erik Rau and a summary of the financial report, which showed the Museum is in good condition.

(Continued on Page 7)

From the director's desk: new faces, new exhibits, new events

The Museum has been busting at the seams with activity this fall and the results are remarkable.

Recent recruitment and training opportunities have resulted in twelve volunteers to work with hospitality and visitor services, four individuals to work with Addie and Liz in collections, and three volunteers to become docents and tell the story of the Museum. Additional training for docents will resume in January, so if you are interested in this area or another area piques your interest, please let me know. New volunteers are always welcome.

After a year of planning, the "Specialty Metals" exhibit opened to rave reviews in early November. Thanks to the efforts of the metals and facilities teams, the exhibit brings to life the early beginnings of the rare metals industry with a timeline that expands over forty years. You'll enjoy reminiscing with the many photographs, stories,

events, videos, and items of interest within the exhibit and the Community Room.



Judie Weissert

Many of the metals team--Dennis, Howard, Joe, Steve, Mae, Mark, Ralph and Viola--are on hand at the Museum during open hours, so let us know you are coming and stop in for a visit. Coming soon and available for viewing will be "oral histories" of Howard Poppleton, Frank Caputo, Mae Yih, Mark Siddall and Ralph and Viola Nielsen. This exhibit will be permanent, continuing to change as the metals industry unfolds to present day and beyond.

The "Music Shoppe" is a new, fun and upbeat exhibit, ever changing with items based on members and guests loaning or donating items for display. The eclectic shoppe spans from the late 1880s to the 1960s, so it has been a challenge to come up with a name, hence the contest running through December 21 to give the shoppe a name. If your suggestion is the winner, you could win a family membership (value \$25) to keep or give as a gift (if you are already a member). Stop in or email us with your idea today!

By the time you receive this newsletter, the newly expanded "Railroad Exhibit" will have already opened on December 8. Bill Maddy and his team have spent the last nine months coming up with the design, the stories, and the artifacts that tell the story of the California and Oregon Railroad and its beginnings 150 years ago in Albany. Stop in and purchase your ticket to

"somewhere." All Aboard!

Over the past six months, the Museum has been working to raise \$35,000 in honor of the Museum's 35th Anniversary with the 35 for 35 Campaign. To date, over \$16,000 has been donated by individuals, families and businesses. If you have already donated, many thanks, and if not, there is still time to contribute with your year-end tax-deductible gift. To celebrate our first 35 years, we invite you to our celebration on Friday, December 18 from 2 - 4 pm for refreshments and conversation.

I look forward to seeing you at our new exhibits and events, and welcome your ideas and suggestions. Please contact me at armuseum@peak.org or call 541.967.7122.

Museum Directors:

Darrel Tedisch, Chair
Kristen Schuttpelz, Vice-Chair
Julie Sipe, Secretary
Cathy Baker
Kitty Buchner
Gary Burch
Kay Burt
Linda Collins
Scott Cowgill
Jason Darling
David F. Fitchett
Cathy Ingalls
Erik Rau

Liaison:

Rebecca Bond,
Albany Visitors Association

Staff:

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

Addie's Addition ...Preserving historic metals

By Addie Maguire, Collections Manager

Metal was discovered by humans approximately 9,000 years ago. Our ancestors quickly realized heating metal made it possible to cast it into different shapes and sizes. Over the centuries, we have used metal to create items like tools, jewelry, armor, weapons, and art. This complex material is an important part of our history and our future.

In September I received a grant which allowed me to attend the Metals Preservation Workshop held by the Balboa Art Conservation Center in Eugene. This workshop focused on the historical uses of metal and how different metals corrode.

Metals Conservator, Teresa Moreno, demonstrated different methods to determine the type of metal in a historical artifact by using sensory analysis and chemical tests. She also demonstrated simple ways to slow metal's deterioration by using readily available materials such as airtight food containers.

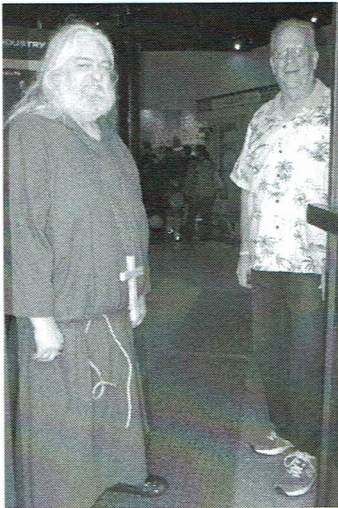
Oxidation of metal is the reaction between the surface of a metal and the air. This process is made visible in red rust on iron, white powder on lead, and green tarnish on silver. Short of putting a historical metal artifact in an antioxygen vacuum, there is no way to completely stop oxidation from occurring on metal. However, it is possible to

slow this process with airtight containers, a stable environment, and low humidity.

The Museum recently acquired artifacts containing zirconium for the Rare Metals Exhibit which opened last month. Researched and developed in Albany, zirconium is highly resistant to corrosion, which is why it is the ideal candidate for nuclear reactors and MRI machines. As a collections manager, this can bring both relief and intrigue. With a material as new as zirconium, there has been little time to study how zirconium will degrade over decades or millennia. This exciting new metal is not just a modern development for science but a new material in which museums are just beginning to observe and understand.

In the modern era, it is easy to take metal for granted. Gold necklaces, iron gates, tin roofs, and bronze statues are all too familiar. Metal, in all forms, is a fascinating material and an integral part of our culture. With the knowledge gained from the Metals Preservation Workshop, the rare metals we now have in our collection will be better housed and exhibited. Despite its obvious strength and durability, historical metal, even zirconium, should be protected for future generations.

A day at the Museum...



Scary Stuff!

Volunteers helped corral and guide over 1,000 monsters, princesses, and parents on the annual Downtown Trick or Treat on October 31. From left: Duwayne Strauser and Dennis Burkhart serve as greeters; a witches' coven of Charlotte Houser, Beth Bargsden,

Nadia Ilyn, and Susan Lewis pass out candy to a lovely princess, while Cathy Ingalls and Kristen Schuttpelz check the many pumpkins arrayed throughout the Museum. Kids could get an extra prize if they correctly identified the number of pumpkins.

Membership & Events Update

By Peggy Kowal

Membership

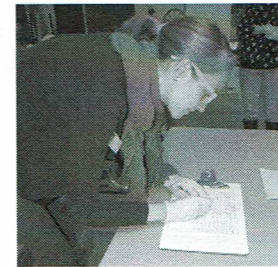
New Members: Individual – Nancy Baisinger, Peter Greenberg, Daniel Kieft, Charlotte Powell, Eric Walker; Family – Colleen Keller, John & Kathleen Murphy; Patron – Pam & Don Yih.

Events Update

Our History Bites programs continue to get bigger and bigger. In September Oscar Hult, co-owner of The Natty Dresser, shared his love of men's hats. He brought many of his own hats to share the history behind each style. The October program was presented by Howard Poppleton. He told the history associated with the metals industry and how it came to be located in Albany. History Bites was special in November as it fell on Veterans Day. We had two speakers for our "Veterans Bites,"-- David Russell shared

his story of being stationed on the USS Oklahoma at Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, and Margo Hampton told of her dad's experience on that fateful day. He was a member of the Willamette University football team. They had unfortunately lost their game December 6 and were scheduled to fly home on the 7th. She talked about how the team was called into action and to help where they could, most as orderlies. Upon returning stateside, many enlisted after their experience.

The Community Room continues to be busy hosting local group meetings and luncheons, the Museum's Annual Meeting, and the Specialty Metals opening exhibit party. A gathering of 200 people enjoyed coffee, hot chocolate and donut holes while they viewed our veterans' exhibits and watched the parade. The Beer Smackdown in September drew a crowd of 297. Halloween Trick or Treating brought 1,237 through the doors during the two-hour period.



Liz Groves documents a new acquisition.

Groves new staff member

Liz Groves, a native of Albany, is our new Collections Assistant. She was educated in Albany public schools; however, she graduated from high school in 2006 from a private online school. At LBCC she graduated with a degree in General Studies and a CNA certificate and received a BS in Bio-Cultural Anthropology from OSU in 2014. She is currently taking online classes in Museum Studies at the Harvard Extension School.

Summer 2015 found her being a docent at the Monteith House where she now is serving her first term as a board member.

(Continued on Page 9)

In October Strauser tapped as Volunteer Coordinator

Duwayne Strauser is the new Museum Volunteer Coordinator and has been easing into his role since October. He works closely with Director Judie Weissert and the Program Committee, chaired by Kris Schuttpelz, in identifying upcoming events needing volunteer coverage.

"Over his two years here, Duwayne has volunteered for hospitality events, school tours, exhibit tasks, and was a presenter for an early History Bites program, so he understands procedures and our needs," Schuttpelz said. "He has been a big help in emailing prospective volunteers and helping

with recent hospitality and docent training sessions this fall."

A Board goal has been to strengthen the pool of volunteers to help meet the increasing events at the Museum and to free the part-time staff to focus on their respective roles, Schuttpelz said.

Woodpeckers form to tout city's timber identity

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Member

What group of men starting in 1960s Albany wore red sports coats, a yellow tie, black slacks, black shoes and a white shirt?

The answer: the Woodpeckers, the newly created greeters' arm of the Albany Area Chamber of Commerce. The name was picked to reflect the importance and dependence the city had upon the wood products industry.

In the beginning, the civic organization was open only to men. They appeared at business openings, participated in community events and marched in parades in Albany and surrounding communities, and in the Portland Starlight Parade during Rose Festival Week.

The group, that at times was associated with some tomfoolery, lasted until Janet Steele took over as president of the chamber in the mid-1990s. She led the switch to the current name, Ambassadors.

"We changed the name for many reasons," she said. "One of the main ones was that the chamber didn't always allow women in Woodpeckers and when they started doing that there were many derogatory names given to the women.

"When I got here, those names didn't set well with me or other women," she said. "Chamber Ambassadors is a common name for the public relations arm of the chamber."

Two former Woodpeckers, Albany City Attorney Jim Delapoer and former Democrat-Herald publisher John Buchner, remember what it was like to be part of the group. When Delapoer moved to Albany in 1976 as a new attorney, he said it was important to reach out to the business community to network so he joined the chamber of commerce.

"Back then, people were proud to be a Woodpecker," he recalled. "I think our membership hit a high of 60 people, and between 10 and 14 members attended each event."

The big heavyweights at that time were Buchner and Jim Barratt, Delapoer said.

There definitely was a serious side to being a Woodpecker and representing the city, but members also had plenty of fun and members could be irreverent.

"Over the years, the choice position was to be the fire truck operator," he said. "We had a couple of old trucks, probably from the 1940s, and it was great to drive one of them in parades because you didn't have to walk."

The driver also got to operate the siren as the walking Woodpeckers and those riding on the truck threw candy to the kids.

"Nope, we didn't have any safety training to drive the truck and there were no seat belts," Delapoer said. "I remember one time I washed one of the trucks and gave the neighborhood kids a ride and that was one time a son thought his dad was pretty cool."

At one point, Delapoer became the "chief feather plucker," and it was his job to get members to pay their dues and meet their community participation commitments.

There were times, mostly after parades, when the Woodpeckers met at a "local watering hole but when women got involved the organization became more professional and it ceased to be a boys' social club and the standards of acceptable behavior became higher," Delapoer said.

Buchner became president of the Woodpeckers in 1981, which in those days was considered the first step to becoming chairman of the chamber. He served in that capacity until 1985.

"If you had any kind of leadership position in the community you were a Woodpecker," he said. The main requirement for membership was attending at least two events and buying the uniform. The coats were purchased from Phil Small's menswear.

One of the big honors was to escort the dignitaries around at the Veterans Day observances.

"I remember if you hosted any military brass it could be a challenge because they were used to servants," Buchner said. "I was lucky in most of the cases, and the most fun was hosting Gov. Vic Atiyeh and driving his car in the parade."

Beforehand, Atiyeh's security chief informed Buchner that if any type of violence threatened the governor, which never happened, "I was to gun the car out of the parade and not worry too much about bystanders. That was a little shocking to me at the time, but then I wasn't used to driving important people."

Most of the Woodpeckers Buchner served with are no longer living, but there are a number of others, he said, who continue to live in Albany and in the surrounding area.



Woodpeckers take part in a local parade in 1968. (Photo by Stanford Smith, *Albany Democrat-Herald*)

**Check the Museum gift shop
for special holiday pricing.**



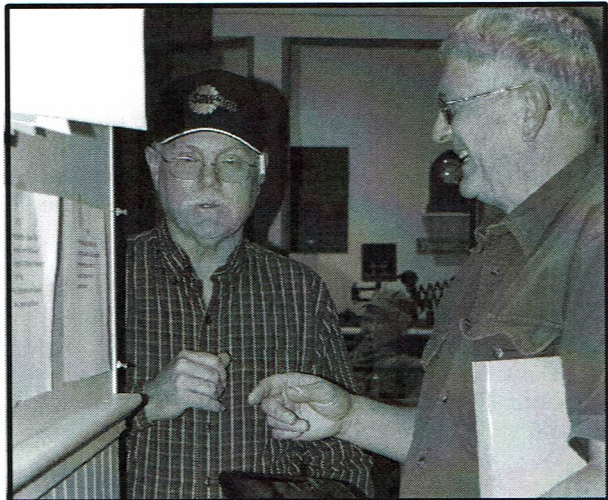
ARM showcases city's specialty metals industry



On a warm August afternoon, Museum staff, Exhibits Committee members, and volunteers knocked down the Victorian Parlor Exhibit to make way for the Specialty Metals Exhibit. From left: Josh Carper, Addie Maguire, Sandy Danaher, Cassidy Mayton, Judie Weissert, Darrel Tedisch (on ladder), Dennis Burkhardt, and David Fitchett.



Howard Popleton, former Deputy Research Director at the Albany Research Center, gave a History Bites presentation on the history of the Bureau of Mines on October 14. After his talk, Carroll Larabee (center) and Hank Horvath, (left) retired ATI managers, enjoy exchanging stories.



Ninth hour! Gary Burch (center) and Darrel Tedisch measure the outer wall of the metals exhibit to complete some trim work before DesignPoint of Salem puts up their specialty metals displays.



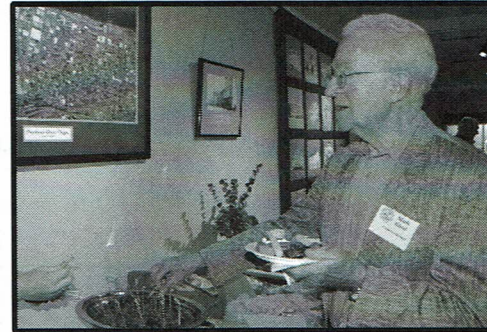
Linn County Commissioner Will Tucker and Museum Member Mary Krpalek congratulate Mae Yih on the successful launch of the Specialty Metals Exhibit on October 29. Yih was on the organizing committee and donated many items from her late husband's tenure as Wah Chang President from 1960-75.



Mark McNabb, retired ATI division director, and Wing Mark, retired ATI manager, (l-r), enjoy a specialty metals display case on their way to the Community Room before the Specialty Metals Exhibit Party begins.



Ralph Nielsen, retired ATI division director, welcomes Greg Bartley, ATI VP of Sales & Marketing, and Stephanie Connor, of ATI's HR Department, to the Specialty Metals Exhibit Party. Nielsen helped spearhead the rare metals exhibit.



Mark Siddall, a retired ATI department manager, samples some of Valley Catering's extensive buffet at the Opening Exhibit Party. Siddall is a member of the rare metals exhibit committee.



Dennis Emerson, retired ATI librarian and organizer of the Specialty Metals Exhibit, offers a few words of welcome to 100 guests at the Opening Exhibit Party on October 29.



Retired ATI employees Jurgen Ternieden (center) and Tony Scaltreto (back to camera) and their wives, Julie Scaltreto (center) and Sigrid Ternieden enjoy the first day of the Specialty Metals Open House on November 2.

'East End Kid' chronicles Main St. area in '30s, '40s



Mitts and Calavan Drug Store was on the southwest corner of Second Avenue and Main Street. The building was moved across Second Avenue and is now the Linger Longer Tavern. (Museum photo, circa 1905)

By Jerry Brenneman,
Museum Member

Main Street in East Albany had the heaviest street traffic from vehicles of any place in town during the time before the new highways met on Pacific Boulevard.

Up until Pacific Boulevard was constructed in 1938, Highways 20 and 99 went through East Albany on two separate roads going west (now Salem Avenue and Santiam Road). They came together just one block apart at Main Street, then they turned right to First Street, then left down to the center of Albany. This area is the location of the round-about constructed recently.

Just south of Main Street and Third Avenue was Madison School comprised of a newer, one-story building and an older three-story structure which held grades 1-8. Students finishing grade 8 attended junior high grade 9 at Central School on Ninth Avenue. Students already there were from Maple School in west Albany who attended there for grades 7, 8, and 9.

Besides the church on Main Street and Santiam Road, there were three other churches located in the east end.

Businesses located on Main Street during the 1930s and 1940s were many, including two grocery stores, a pharmacy with a

soda fountain, a cleaners, a Texaco gas station, and later in 1948, Whitaker's Hardware (still in business). Perhaps the oldest continually operating business on Main Street is the Linger Longer Tavern, which may be the oldest business in the whole city.

Several other businesses in this bustling part of town on Salem Avenue were tourist cabins (the present site of remodeled rental homes), a car dealer, a wrecking yard, a privately owned frozen food locker when few people had freezers, another gas station and small grocery store with tourist cabins (recently torn down to make way for Woodland Square).

Farther east there were the Texaco gas tanks and facilities owned by Cliff Knodell at the corner of Geary Street and Salem Avenue. Across from the oil company was another privately-owned gas station and small grocery store. The grocery is still there, only much bigger.

And still farther east was one of the biggest businesses in Albany, the Veal Furniture Company, maker of fine maple furniture called "Flint Ridge" (our first nice bedroom set). They were located where the skate park and the Restore building are today and went out of business several years ago. The skate park is where the company log pond was located.

Going east several more blocks on Santiam Road was perhaps the largest grocery store in Albany, run by an interesting character named Earl Dickson. His store was at Geary Street and Pacific Boulevard where the Petco Shop is today. Known as "Dickson's Corral," I wrote an article on this unusual businessman and store in the *Albany Old Times*, Spring 2015 edition.

Two blocks away to the northeast of Dickson's Corral was a two-story brick school which was built by the Burkharts and others in this part of town. It sat empty for many years after not being used when the Civil War ended. It was used for storage for a time by the Future Farmers of America students at Albany High School. Much later it was torn down and the area today is referred to as "Burkhart Park."

East Albany was once a thriving part of Albany, and while it still has businesses, a mini mall, and plenty of traffic, it is nothing like it used to be.

'West End Kid' describes Albany between wars

If you want to know what life was like in Albany between the world wars from the perspective of an adolescent boy, then *Rainbows in My Pocket* by Zed Merrill, will pique your interest. Merrill, a hometown boy, describes life on the city's west end with an early detour to New York City and a longer one to the farm country of North Albany.

Merrill takes the reader on a boy's-eye view of downtown Albany, describing the business core block-by-block with some hilarious interludes mixed in. One of the

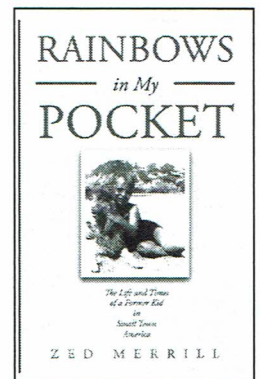
funniest is a successful strategy among his friends to sneak into the tiny Rialto Theater without having to pay.

One chapter centers on the classic summer swimming hole on the Calapooia, accessed through the Riverside Cemetery gates where Merrill's chums trekked down the hand-carved steps to the "dirty Cally." Swinging on the ring or standing over a campfire were standard fare, only to be interrupted by nuns from St. Mary's School taking their charges for a swim, or

by the dreaded East Enders, who bullied their way to ownership of the sacred spot.

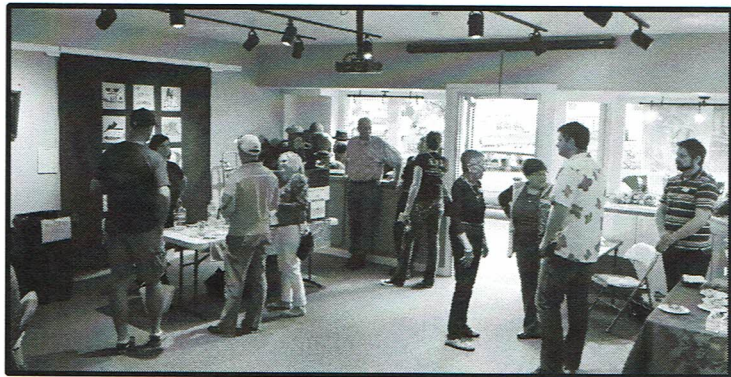
Playing kick the can in Merrill's Seventh Avenue neighborhood bordered by Elm and Maple Streets has particular appeal, as does Clarence the Parrot, who went into a frenzy when the guys played touch football in front of his porch.

Life in North Albany is especially intriguing because of its rural nature, something that Merrill had to get used to—from the rustic



(Continued on Page 10)

Museum Outreach



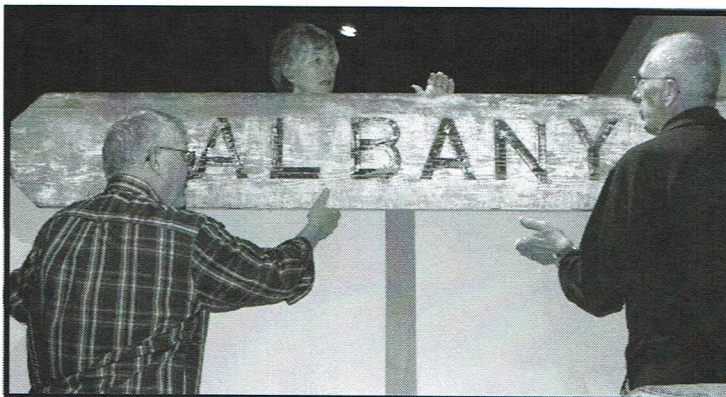
Board member Erik Rau (second from right) coordinated this year's Albany Beer Smackdown held in the Community Room on September 18. The Museum again paired with Deluxe Brewing Co. and Sinister Distillery. Helping Rau are Board members Jason Darling (far right), and Mary Arnett and Kris Schuttpelz (next to Rau).



The Oregon Cultural Trust members held their regional meeting at the Museum on October 21. Albany members include Ralph Nielsen (left) and Rebecca Bond (facing camera).



Margo Hammond of Salem was a featured speaker at Veterans Bites, held before the annual Veterans Day Parade on November 11. Hammond told about her father's experience in Hawaii as part of the Willamette University football team when the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor.



"Is it level?" asks Sandy Danaher as Darrel Tedisch and David Fitchett position the old Albany Depot sign for its permanent spot on the new Train Depot Exhibit. These Facilities Committee volunteers were finishing up work in time for the opening ceremony on December 8.

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

Four honored for volunteerism

(Continued from Page 1)

Three new Board Members, Kitty Buchner, Linda Collins, and Cathy Ingalls, were elected unanimously and will serve three-year terms that expire in 2018.

Director Judie Weissert presented the Volunteer of the Year Awards to Dennis Burkhart for his commitment to identifying and organizing the Potts photo collection, and to Bill Maddy for volunteering every Friday as a docent and for spearheading the new train exhibit. A new award category, the Mary Arnett "Above and Beyond Award," went to David Fitchett for spearheading many events, especially the History Bites programs, and for work on the exhibits committee, and Kay Burt, for her ongoing commitment to editing the Museum newsletter and for coordinating this year's Cemetery Tour.



Dennis Burkhart and Bill Maddy (bottom l-r) received Volunteer of the Year Awards, while David Fitchett and Kay Burt were given the new Mary Arnett "Above & Beyond" recognition at the Annual Membership Meeting.

Ellsworth St. Bridge is city's first modern span

By David Fitchett,
Museum Member

(This is the second of three articles about Albany's bridges. Readers are welcome to visit the Museum where there is a binder and photos containing more information near the entryway.)

The Ellsworth Bridge (originally called the Albany Bridge) developed as the Albany-Corvallis Highway 30, now US 20, ushered in motorized traffic. The original Steel Bridge was not wide enough to accommodate two passing cars and certainly not logging trucks. As the result of overstress and fires, that bridge was declared unsafe in 1923. Within a year the City of Albany, Linn County, and the State Highway Commission reached an agreement, and a new bridge was started on August 19, 1924.

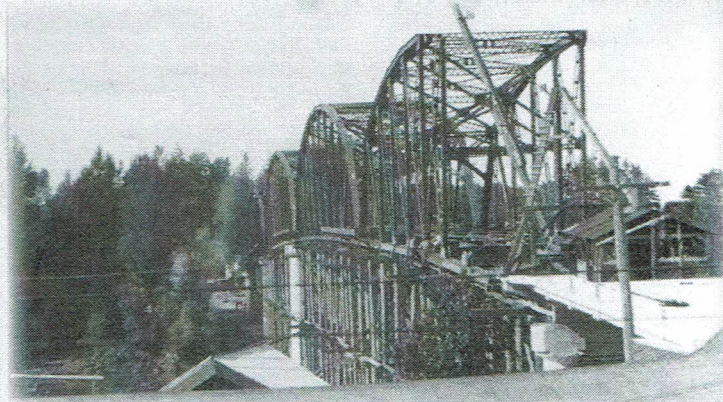
Conde B. McCullough, State bridge engineer, was well-known for his beautiful concrete arched bridges throughout the state. However, the US War Department said that since the Willamette River was navigable at Albany, the bridge needed to be easily converted to a moveable span for possible future shipping. McCullough then designed a multiple steel truss span that could be converted to a vertical lift span. Even in Albany's modified truss bridge, McCullough did include two ornamental features—the two concrete pylons on the portals at each end, and the decorative concrete arched railings along the sides.

Shortly after bridge completion, portions of the handrail were damaged by telephone workers installing lines on the bridge. They were repaired, but McCullough showed how much he prized these ornate features in a letter stating that a repair "never entirely obliterates the original defect and the appearance of the rail cap will never exactly be as good as in the first instance." Through the 1930s the railings were periodically cleaned with iron brushes and later were washed yearly. In 2002, during major construction repairs all 1,600 concrete balusters of the railing were replaced with newly molded duplicates.

The bridge was constructed on Ellsworth Street because the river was the narrowest there with a straighter approach on the north

side, benefitting the overhead street car lines that the Southern Pacific and Oregon Electric Railroads used on Ellsworth Street. Inauspiciously, less than a week after the bridge's construction began, a suit was entered to stop the approach on the city's side.

The Barrett Brothers (JJ and WA) who had a Studebaker and farm implement store on First Avenue and Ellsworth Street, claimed that the Albany approach would block an alley just north of First Avenue between Lyon and Broadalbin Streets. This would impede their deliveries and also block fire engines from responding to an alley fire.



Ellsworth Street Bridge under construction in 1924, looking toward Benton County. (Museum photo)

On April 24, 1925, the court forbade completing the approach, but the Highway Commission pressed on with bridge construction by making a temporary approach on Ellsworth and technically not completing the approach. The bridge was opened informally on November 30, and the Barrett Brothers filed contempt of court charges which the court dropped, saying that Linn County would pay damages to the Barrett's. The Ellsworth Street approach was eventually made permanent, and the traffic flowed.

The Highway Commission approached Albany citizens suggesting the bridge be called "Albany Bridge," but the Oregon Author's League and the Northwest Poetry Association pressed to name it after Samuel Simpson, who wrote the poem "Beautiful Willamette" near the bridge's location, back in the 1860s. The Corvallis Chamber of Commerce wished to name it after J.K. Weatherford, prominent Albany lawyer and regent of Oregon Agricultural College (now OSU), who spent much time elevating that institution. The Highway Commission stayed with "Albany Bridge."

At the actual, but informal, November opening, there were no speeches or ceremonies. The first vehicle across the bridge was an Oakland 6 Landau driven by G.E. Miller, an Albany auto dealer, and his passenger, George Cernik. The ceremonial celebration took place on May 1, 1926, at Albany's annual May Day celebration on the grounds of the old Linn County Courthouse. There were cars driven over the bridge, flags and speeches, and the secretary to the governor recited Simpson's "Beautiful Willamette."

Winter Edition Memorial Roll adds Elston, Orr, Goode

Three names have been added to the Memorial Roll through financial gifts since the fall edition of *Albany Old Times*: Dayt Elston, Elizabeth "Betty" Orr, and James C. "Jimmy" Goode Jr.

Dayt Elston was active in Sweet Home, working at Santiam Lumber Co. and helping start the Methodist Church. In 1962 he and his wife, Esther, moved to Portland where he was office manager at the Willamette

Industries corporate office. Upon retiring in 1985, they moved to Albany.

Although born in Sheridan, OR, Betty adopted Albany and sang its praises through letters-to-the-editor and two chapbooks about Albany's historic homes and downtown buildings. She was an accomplished writer and artist.

Jimmy attended local schools, and after graduating from South Albany High School,

worked in the food processing department at Smokecraft for a number of years. He was one of the early residents of the Chamberlain House, and was known as "the Santa Claus of Albany" for visiting area grade schools.

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.

Seaman survives Pearl Harbor, Leyte battles

(Continued from Page 1)

promised to be a warm, quiet Hawaiian Sunday. He reported for duty with the Deck Division, where his job was assisting with the daily swabbing of the teak main deck. When the scrubbing was completed, he sat down to a typical breakfast of eggs, potatoes, cold cereal, avocado, and coffee. At 0730 he went below to the quarters he shared with some sixty other sailors, many of whom were sleeping off the effects of their Saturday night liberty. As Russell read and listened to the radio, a few miles away the first of two waves of carrier-based Japanese fighter planes and bombers was approaching Pearl Harbor almost completely undetected.

At 0755 Russell was startled by an officer's announcement over the ship's PA system that the base was under attack. The wording of the alert left no doubt that the alarm was genuine and not a drill: "This is a real air raid! This is no sh_t!" Sailors scrambled to their battle station. With the *Oklahoma* moored alongside the Maryland on Ford Island's "Battleship Row," Seaman Russell had no battle station, so he headed down two levels below the main deck to the ship's heavily armored interior.

At the same time, sailors began to close the main deck hatches, a standard battle procedure that rendered the lower decks water tight, but, on the other hand, could possibly seal off the escape routes of the men below.

At 0756 the first torpedo hit the *Oklahoma* amidships twenty feet below the water line, sending a geyser of water and debris hundreds of feet into the air. Russell recalled that the impact of the portside explosion blew dust from every vent and crevice. A few seconds later a second torpedo struck, followed soon after by a third that penetrated the ship's hull, rupturing fuel oil bunkers and sending oil gushing through the lower decks and into

the harbor. Sea water poured in, and almost immediately the *Oklahoma* began listing to port.

At 0758—two minutes after the first hit—the commanding officer judged the damage to the *Oklahoma* to be fatal, and gave the order to abandon ship. The order resulted in a rush of men—Seaman Russell among them—to ladders and hatches to gain the main deck above.

Russell made his way upward, found an unsecured hatch, and scrambled topside as torpedoes and bombs continued to hit the ship, spraying shrapnel and water. The *Oklahoma* was already listing too sharply for him to walk on deck, but he seized a fresh water supply hose and used it to pull himself hand over hand to the starboard rail. In the water below he saw lifeless bodies along with survivors swimming among patches of oil, some of which were in flames, and Russell decided that jumping into the harbor was a poor choice. Luckily, over the side of the nearby *Maryland* hung a line that he thought he could reach. He gathered himself, jumped as far as he could, and caught the line as he crashed into the ship's hull. He managed to keep his grip on the rope and climbed to the relative safety of the *Maryland's* deck. Once on deck, he assisted the crew of an anti-aircraft battery until the second wave of Japanese planes had returned to sea at approximately 1000.

After being struck by nine torpedoes and several bombs, the *Oklahoma* capsized and sank in about 45 feet of water, part of the hull remaining above the surface. Just twelve minutes had passed since the first explosion. Of the 1,353 sailors and marines assigned to the ship, 429 perished. Although all the battleships of Ford Island were hit and damaged that day, only the *Oklahoma* and the *Arizona* were unable eventually to return to sea.



David Russell (second from left) tells about his World War II skirmishes to a rapt audience during Veterans Bites on November 11.

Seaman First Class Russell spent the next ten days on the base before being re-assigned to the destroyer *USS Mahan*. In late 1944 the *Mahan* was assisting in the landing of US troops on the island of Leyte in the Philippines when she came under kamikaze attack. After the *Mahan* was hit multiple times by suicide bombers and was engulfed in flames, the order was issued to abandon ship. Seaman Russell and two other sailors went over the side into the waters of the Visayan Sea, where they were swept along in a strong current for several hours before they were rescued by an American warship. The *Mahan* was so severely damaged that she was later sunk by US gunfire. The date of the attack on the *Mahan* was December 7, 1943.

David Russell retired from the US Navy in 1960 and settled in Albany.

The author thanks Mr. David Russell for providing most of the information contained in this article.



Seaman David Russell

Groves new staff member

(Continued from Page 3)

In her spare time Liz sews costumes for friends and reads murder mysteries. Her husband, Aaron, also an Albany native, is a student at OSU. They live downtown with their two cats, Henry and Olive.

For Your Convenience...
the Museum now
accepts major credit
cards for membership
dues, donations,
memorials and gift
shop purchases.



Respect the Past. Build the Future.

136 Lyon Street, S
Albany, Oregon 97321

Open Hours
Tuesday through Friday
11 am - 4 pm
Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

Donations Welcomed

541.967.7122



armuseum@peak.org
www.armuseum.com

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO 83
Albany OR 97321

Return Service Requested



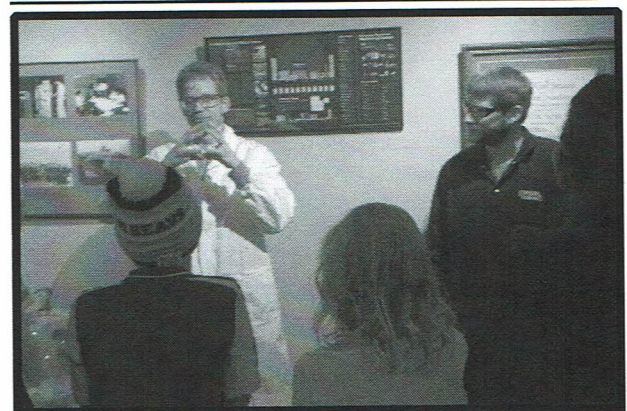
Music Shoppe Exhibit needs a name

This new music shoppe display, evoking several eras of musical instruments and accessories, replaces the Bikman's Ladies Store Exhibit. Ironically, the Bikman Building on the corner of First Avenue and Ellsworth Street, once housed a music store in the basement.

Turn in your submission name in person or via email by December 21.

Rainbows (Continued from Page 6)

Fairmount School—to the different “ways” of its citizenry, but a consistent theme in *Rainbows* is that one can overcome small-town prejudice and fears and that people are pretty much the same, regardless of what part of town they live in. It is available at the Museum Book Store for \$9 (members).



Joe Licavoli (right) and Casey, both from Northwest Energy Lab, explain to North Albany fifth graders what happens to marshmallows when they are in a vacuum. The students took a tour of the Museum and observed several metals-related experiments on December 1.