

Albany Old Times

E & E

Calendar Events & Exhibits

Wednesday, June 8
"History Bites" – Bill Maddy
Walk the Beat of the Albany Police
Community Room – Noon

Saturday, June 18
Summer Passport Kick-Off
Albany Visitors Association
10 am – 1 pm

Friday/Saturday, July 8 & 9
Crazy Days Sidewalk Sale
Downtown Albany

Wednesday, July 13
"History Bites" – History Through
Headstones Preview
Community Room – Noon

Wednesday, July 27
History Through Headstones Tour
Albany Masonic Cemetery on
Broadway
7 pm – dusk

Saturday, July 30
Historic Homes Trolley Tour
11 am – 5 pm
Contact the AVA for more
information

Saturday, August 6
All Members Ice Cream Social
Music & ice cream with all the
trimmings
Museum & park 1 – 3 pm

Wednesday, August 10
"History Bites" – TBA
Community Room – Noon

Saturday, September 10
"Antiques in the Streets"
All Day

July Headstone Tour features nine lives

By Kay Burt, Museum Member

Oregon Trail pioneers are half the subjects represented in the annual History Through Headstones Tour slated for Wednesday, July 27, rounded out by a school administrator, optometrist, and postal carrier.

(Continued on Page 5)

Roe shares memories, heritage

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Board Member

Although Maryan Howard Roe is 90 years old and she hasn't lived in Albany since 1967, the former newspaperwoman can cite in great detail where her family shopped, the names of family attorneys, the street addresses of young girlfriends and the lineage of her forebears.

Roe is always willing to share her memories of Albany and her childhood with anyone who is interested in hearing them. Her next goal is to gather up her family histories and photographs "and take them to the Museum to let people do what they want with them."

But first, she and daughter Laurie are two of nine docents who are sharing the lives and times of individuals buried at the Albany Masonic Cemetery at the annual History Through Headstones Tour next month. (See related story on Page 1 and 5 for details).

Roe particularly enjoys recalling the ancestors and their descendants of her seven family relatives that traveled the Oregon Trail by covered wagon to arrive in the Willamette Valley in the 1850s. Some settled in Linn County, while others went to Clackamas, Polk and Yamhill counties. Family surnames were Howard, Jones, VanBuskirk, Umphrey, Bell, and two Parkers.

The settlers set out for the valley from Missouri, Kentucky, Tennessee and Iowa because they'd heard it was a nice place to live and they wanted to take part in the donation land claim program. Many of her relatives were carpenters and farmers, raising mostly wheat.

The families are so intertwined that without a family tree in front of you, it is impossible to keep everyone in the line straight. But for Roe, who's studied her family's roots both here and abroad, it's no problem. She's quite familiar with everyone: their birth and death dates, their jobs, their civic activities, their club memberships and where they are buried.

Two relatives operated Parker Brothers Bakery and Grocery in what is now the Albany Regional Museum. Another Parker was a sheriff, twice an Albany mayor, a state legislator from Benton County, and he served as commissioner of the Willamette Falls Locks at Oregon City.

He and his family later moved to Yaquina City near Toledo and built a mill and exported lumber to England, but the mill later burned down. Another Parker was a treasurer for the city of Albany.

Mary Anice Howard was born on July 9, 1925, in Albany Hospital to James Francyl Howard and Mary Bernadine Parker Howard. Roe's brother, James Parker Howard, was born in Albany on July 13, 1919. There were three Marys living in the same household so Mary Anice became Maryan.

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Maryan Roe holds a newspaper featuring a photo of her younger self working at *The Greater Oregon* newspaper, owned by her father, Francyl Howard. The photo was taken at a recent Parker Family reunion. (Photo courtesy of Nancy Trotic)

From the director's desk: Looking ahead...

One of my big picture jobs as director is to help our nonprofit Museum evolve and sustain its mission. I rely heavily on the Museum Board of Directors, volunteers and our members who value the importance of our institution to help with those endeavors.

Saying that, this edition of *Albany Old Times* is Kay Burt's last as editor of this well-read publication. Kay has worked tirelessly in connecting with our members and the community, not only from a historical viewpoint with interesting stories, photos, and an excellent group of writers, but keeping us informed on the exciting things happening with current activities and events. Kay's enthusiasm and professionalism have contributed to the Museum's role as a viable community asset. Thanks, Kay for a job well done!

Moving forward, I would like your ideas and suggestions on how you would like to receive your newsletter in the

future. We will continue with the printed version through our fall issue and then make



Judie Weissert

plans from there based on your valued input and the Museum's budgetary process. Have you ever considered receiving the newsletter in a different format? Here are a few ideas to start the conversation:

- Combine print and electronic delivery. Example: two printed issues and two digital issues by email or available at our website: armuseum.com. Currently all past editions are available on our website
- Digital delivery only through email based on your permission
- Increase frequency of the digital edition to six times per year (every other month with smaller editions)

With any of the above ideas, we will still need an editor to

coordinate the information for each edition. If you or someone you might know aspires to taking on a journalistic opportunity, I would be eternally grateful for your help. Please send your comments to armuseum@peak.org or call me at 541.967.7122. All ideas will be considered and entered into a drawing for a Museum gift basket if they are received by July 31.

There are many exciting plans on the horizon for the Museum. We are currently working with Bill Ryals, architect and chair of the Landmarks Commission, to help us plan and prioritize the possibilities. Some of those plans could include development of the second floor for exhibit space and better storage, adding an elevator for easy access, a new roof (completed 5/18/2016), and outside renovation of the original structure. This and other alternatives are needed in the future for the Museum to continue as a major historical anchor in the community.

Seasonal Exhibits:

Robert Ferguson Wood Carving Collection: Nine "new" items housed in an antique curio cabinet. Now open for viewing.

Swimming on the River: Remember the ole' swimming hole and the swimwear attire? Look for it mid-June

75th Anniversary of the Timber Carnival beginnings: New items not seen before and a new location. Opening July 1.

Future Exhibits

1920s - 1940s Kitchen (housed in the current S.E. Young store) In need of a refrigerator and small sink from that era. Projected opening--Thanksgiving weekend. I can almost smell the turkey!

Specialty Metals: the story continues. Watch for it in early 2017.

As a member of the Albany Regional Museum, you already have a vested interest in the Museum's future plans and I appreciate your continued support and involvement in maintaining a connection to the past, the present, and the future of the Museum.

Come along for the ride!

Judie Weissert

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Calling all counters, organizers for July 15-17

By Addie Maguire,
Collections Manager

This Burrough's adding machine was, in many ways, a precursor to the modern computer as one of the first mechanized ways of counting and solving computations. The Burroughs Adding Machine Company was started by William Seward Burroughs in the 1890s. According to the serial number on the front of the machine, it was made circa 1920. This fascinating machine is one of the many objects in the Albany Regional Museum Collections which was recently uncovered, cataloged, and better preserved after being hidden away for years.

The Collections team is calling all counters, organizers, and history fans alike to help with our first annual collections inventory. This inventory is the next step in the ongoing collections renovation and will help staff, volunteers, and researchers better understand what is in the collection. The

inventory will take place the weekend of July 17, 2016. If interested in helping with the inventory, please email me at cataloger_arm@peak.org.



A night at the Museum...



Magician Steve Peterson mesmerizes a young trio of boys during A Night at the Museum on April 23.

Little girls enjoy playing dress-up in vintage accessories. Each child received an Instamatic photo as memento of their Night at the Museum.

A train conductor duo looks over the evening agenda posted by the front desk. They had just observed the model railroad setup in the exhibits area.



Six eyes, one egg. Oh, no! Kiddos enjoy an Easter Egg hunt in the park adjacent to the Museum.

Membership & Events Update

By Peggy Kowal

Welcome New Members:

Individual: June Boles, Philip Foster, Darlene Green, Ted Helget, Beverly Rosecrans, Edward Stephen, and Larry Stephen;
Family: Jonathan & Cheryl Christie, Trudy Eikenberry, Will & Jane Green, Joe & Lois Malango, Norm Nelson & Marisabel Gouverneur, Chris & Veronica Royce, Duwayne Strauser & Denise Pancourt, and Richard Engeman & Terry Jess.

Visitors Hail from Far and Wide

People travel year 'round anymore. Visitors from thirteen states across the country, Mexico, China, Germany and Mongolia have passed through our doors. Many come to visit family; some are here to do research on their family, or to attend a family

or class reunion, while others are looking at Albany and the Willamette Valley to be their new home. Whatever their reason, we're thrilled they made the Museum part of their trip.

Community Room a Popular Venue

The Community Room continues to be busy with a variety of events from group meetings, luncheons, a baby shower, and school groups, to our Annual Tea and, of course, our History Bites programs. One big event in March was our Family Night at the Museum which had 300 children and parents dressing up, watching with fascination the magic tricks and illusions, hunting Easter eggs, eating popcorn and watching the movie *Night at the Museum*.

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Hayes hired to assist with Membership Services

Kathwren (Groves) Hayes was born in Tillamook, Oregon and moved to Albany with her family when she was five. She graduated from Albany High School in 1969. She and John were married in 1971. They have three children: Brandon and his family live in Monmouth; Derrick and his family live in Molalla; and Natasha and her family live in Everett, WA. They have five grandchildren ranging in ages from two to ten.

Kathwren has a General Studies AA from LBCC. From 1995-2014 she held several administrative positions with the Corvallis Clinic and Samaritan Health Services. In 2015 she had an interesting experience working as a boom operator during sugar beet harvest in Grand Forks, ND. She also currently works on the



Kathwren rolls the Museum sandwich board across the parking lot as she prepares to close for the day.

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Roe enjoys sharing Albany memories, pioneer heritage (Continued from Page 1)

The Howards lived at 1206 Calapooia Street, SW, not far from the Santiam-Albany Canal. "We called the canal the ditch, and we were warned we would get a switching if we played near it for fear we might fall in," she said.

The family's neighbors included the Harold Fisher family of Fisher Implements and Dr. Mitchell and beyond that there was a field "where we could shoot off fireworks like Roman candles on the Fourth of July," she said. "Later, the field was the site of the now abandoned Safeway store on Queen Avenue.

Roe said after first meeting in kindergarten, she made life long friends with Martha Anne Pharis Warnke; among her other friends were Betty French, Beverly Arbuthnot, Marian Hill, Winona

Stauble and Roberta Quigley. Schoolmates included Bill Fisher, Wilbur Senders and Arnold Fraser.

When the family lived on Calapooia, wood was delivered for the furnace and the fireplace. When the iceman brought chunks of ice for keeping food fresh, Roe and her friends ate ice chips that the driver let them have.

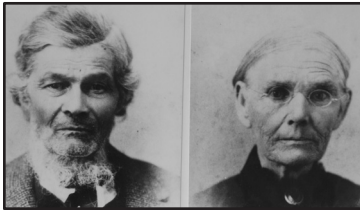
Her family attended the Methodist Episcopal Church at Third and Ellsworth streets, and she went to Maple School, Central School and Albany High School. And like her father and brother, she edited the *Whirlwind* newspaper.

Among the family's favorite restaurants were the Elite, Murphy's Café, Cravmore and Jim Christie's Greyhound Depot Café. She recalls Mikkelson's butcher shop, Stiff's Furniture, Hamilton's Department Store, McDowell's shoe shop, Seth French Jewelers, Blain's Men's Clothes, Foshay & Mason's, JC Penney's, Kailes' Dress Shop, Bigman's Dress Shop, the Five and Dime, and Maryanna Bakery. They attended movies at The Venetian, Granada and Rialto theaters.

Following high school graduation,



Nancy, Mary Elizabeth, and Ann Parker, daughters of Allen and Julia Umphrey Parker. Mary Elizabeth is Maryan Roe's great grandmother. (Photo courtesy of Maryan Roe).



Thomas and Nancy Driskell Umphrey, Maryan Roe's maternal great-great grandparents. (Photo courtesy of Maryan Roe).

Roe and her brother entered the County's first travel agency, University of Oregon, where they both graduated. They worked World Wide Travel Bureau, in the Howard Building.

for their parents, who owned the *Greater Oregon* and *Corvallis Benton County Herald* newspapers, Roe married George J. Roe on Sept. 8, 1957, in Albany, the couple now and then in 1959, Roe and her lives in Salem and has a daughter, brother and spouses opened Linn Laurie.

Ingalls explains American cultural shifts in cemetery

By Cathy Ingalls,
Museum Board Member

Contemporary grave markers look nothing like their predecessors, and there are many reasons for that. The tombstones in the nation's first cemeteries primarily expressed grief for someone who died.

Today's markers reflect less of a fixation on public mourning and consequently are not as ornate and contain few if any symbols. The wording may be limited to a name with birth and death dates and perhaps words like "mother" or "father."

Other reasons for the plainer markers now in use are that it's gotten much too expensive to create elaborate carvings, and there are only a few stone cutters left that have the ability to do that type of work. It is also the preference of those in charge of cemeteries for flat markers because they are easier to maintain and mow around, and the upright stones can be targets for vandals.

Very early in the settling of America in areas where there were no cemeteries, people created burial plots near their homes and those graves were covered with what was at hand, rocks and wood. The

material often was spread out over a grave to keep the dead person from rising.

According to information from the International Southern Cemetery Gravestone Association, many colonists feared the afterlife as they thought only a few people would enter heaven after death and everyone else was considered to be a sinner. Later, as people had more money to spend, public burial sites were marked with slate and sandstone followed by marble, granite and iron.

Tombstones became quite elaborate when cemeteries evolved into public parks, where people would stroll around to look at the graves and plantings, and then enjoy picnic lunches. For those who like to walk through old cemeteries and look at historical grave markers, here is a partial list of some of the symbols that can be found on the tombstones, along with their meanings:

Acorns serve as symbols of power and authority and can be seen on military graves; **Anchors** represent the cross and demonstrate a hope for resurrection and eternal life. An anchor with crossed cannons appeared on Confederate States Navy gravestones. An anchor with a rope or chain denotes the United States Navy.

July Headstone Tour features nine lives

(Continued from Page 1)

For a third year, the Albany Masonic Cemetery at 700 Seventh Avenue, SW, will open its gates at 7 pm when guests can listen to the stories told by volunteer docents. The event is free.

Because parking is limited, visitors are encouraged to park on adjacent Seventh, Eighth and Ninth streets or hop on the Albany Visitors Association Trolley at Two Rivers Market starting at 6:30 pm. The trolley will run a continuous loop until dusk.

This popular Albany Regional Museum-sponsored event has grown to over 240 guests last year and is in its ninth season.

Subjects highlighted this year are as follows:

Samuel Henry Althouse (1825-1888) was one of Albany's earliest settlers, having come west with Walter and Thomas Monteith. He is credited with helping build the Monteith House and was one of the founders of the Magnolia Flouring Mill in 1851. His son Phillip was the first individual buried in the Masonic Cemetery in 1853.

Docent: Dan Larsell, Monteith Historical Society

Hubbard Bryant (1848-1924) and wife Adda are best remembered for offering a 30-acre parcel of their property on Bryant Island to the city to create a park. Bryant's family came to Oregon in 1852. He attended Willamette U., and came to Albany in 1874 and was elected county surveyor. Admitted to the Bar in 1877, he began a law practice with Henry H. Hewitt that lasted for 10 years.

Docent: David F. Fitchett, Albany Regional Museum Board Member

Ernest A. Hudson (1884-1944) was a beloved band instructor, athletic coach, and principal of Albany High School. After his sudden death, AHS students dedicated their 1944 yearbook to him. The community named the athletic field adjacent to Central School in his honor on November 3, 1944.

Docent: Rick Hammel, St. Johns #17 Masons.

Milton Hale (1821-1911) came to Oregon in 1845 and settled in Linn County in 1846. He built the first ferry on the Santiam River near Jefferson, which he operated for many years and made it possible for pioneers to settle our region. In 1865 he owned and operated a ferry across the Willamette River at Albany.

Docent: Darrel Tedisch, Albany Regional Museum Board Chair

Dr. Ella C. Meade (1874-1943) practiced optometry in her own offices in Albany and later in Eugene. Active in many civic clubs, she was a charter member of Albany's Chapter O of the PEO Sisterhood (members are celebrating their 100th anniversary this year), the DAR, and Order of the Eastern Star. Dr. Meade was the first woman in Oregon appointed to the state optometrist board.

Docent: Cynthia Murphy, Albany Regional Museum Member

Allen E. Parker (1828-1905) came across the Oregon Trail in 1852, settling in Linn County where he became a prominent farmer, warehouse and sawmill owner. He served as Linn County Sheriff from 1872-74 and was Albany's mayor in 1876. That same year he was elected to the state legislature.

Docent: Maryann Howard Roe, Parker-Umphrey descendant

Julia Ann Umpfhey Parker (1833-1928) was an Oregon pioneer of 1852 and started west with her husband Allen E. Parker a month after their marriage. In late fall they settled near Tallman and the following year were joined by Julia's parents, Thomas Henry and Nancy Jane Driskell Umpfhey, and family. Julia was the oldest of five generations of women.

Docent: Laurie Roe, Parker-Umpfhey descendant

Jared Ross (1864-1927) carried the mail on a streetcar with a team of horses, handling all the mail coming in and out of Albany on the C & E trains. Later, he was an honored member of the postal service of Albany for more than 25 years and was lauded for his reliable service by automobile.

Docent: Judie Weissert, Albany Regional Museum Director

Jason Wheeler (1823-1907) was an Oregon pioneer of 1847, purported to be the first sheriff of Linn County under the provisional government. Pres. Grover Cleveland appointed Jason as U.S. Indian Agent at the Warm Springs Indian Reservation where he served for three years. He was captain of the Granger No. 1, the first boat to travel the Albany-Santiam Canal in 1874.

Docent: Betty Thorn, Wheeler's great-great granddaughter

Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Tent: In addition to the stories about cemetery notables, guests can also learn about The Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries Grant Program at a tent near the main gate. This presentation and demonstration of ongoing documentation and marker cleaning techniques in the Albany Masonic Cemetery is made possible by a third grant to help restore and preserve this significant pioneer cemetery for our community and region.

Presenters: Kathy Griffiths & Michele Baker, Friends of the Albany Masonic Cemetery

marker styles, symbols

Angels stand for spirituality, and they guard the tomb. They also symbolize the resurrection. **Arches** represent the door to salvation and that there is victory in death; **Birds** mean resurrection and eternal life; **Broken columns** denote decay, and they usually were reserved for the loss of the head of the family.

Broken rings stand for a break in the family circle; **Clover** represent the Trinity; **Compass and Square** shows the person was a Mason; **Crossed swords** stand for people of high military rank; **Drape or curtain** means the closing of life on earth.

Garland or wreath stands for saintliness and glory, and that there is victory in death; **Globes** represent the soul waiting for resurrection; **Hand or finger pointed upward** means the hand of God is offering salvation; **Clasped hands** refer to a farewell to earthly existence.

Harps denote a bridge between heaven and earth; **Hourglass** means time has expired; **Lambs** often mark the grave of a child and stand for innocence; **Roses** are reminders that the soul achieves its most perfect state after death. **Sheaves of wheat** are symbols of time and the divine harvest; **Scimitar and five-pointed star** is the Shriner's emblem; **Tree stump** means a life was cut short; **Urn:** The Egyptians believed that the

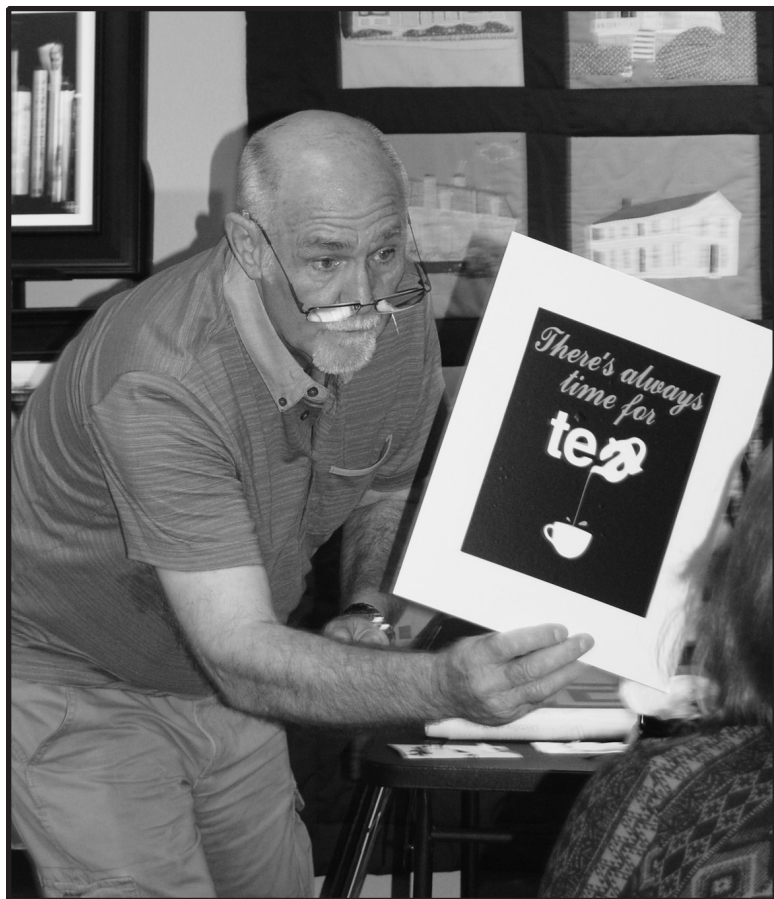
storing of vital organs in a grave were needed to restore eternal life, so the symbol of that tradition remained popular; **Weeping willow** means perpetual mourning.

Some grave markers contain the initials of organizations that the deceased belonged to.

BPOE, Benevolent & Protective Order of Elks; DAR, Daughters of the American Revolution; FOE, Fraternal Order of Eagles; FOP, Fraternal Order of Police; F&AM, Free and Accepted Masons; GAR, Grand Army of the Republic; and IOF, Independent Order of Foresters.

Others are IOOF, Independent Order of Odd Fellows; K of C, Knights of Columbus; MWA, Modern Woodmen of America; SAR, Sons of the Revolution; and WOW, Woodmen of the World.

The Annual Museum Tea—



Bill Thompson, an artist who works with vinyl, shared and demonstrated the steps in creating his final product. Thompson donated this “tea” picture as a door-prize to a thrilled guest, Linda Webb-Bowen.



Sharon Poppleton with several of her watercolors, many of which are regional nature scenes.



Cheryl French holds up the final step in the process of creating a screened print.

Photos by Mary Lou McCormick

Loy captures spirit of 1853 fledgling Albany

By Ed Loy,
Museum Member

In early October 1853, a few covered wagons rolled through Albany, then a tiny settlement of about 300 people. The wagons, which had just completed the long journey over the Oregon Trail, belonged to the ancestors of present-day resident Shirley Hardin Stewart. Maria Parsons Belshaw, Shirley’s great-great-aunt, wrote in her diary:

“October 7th came to Albany this evening—it is a new town—as beautiful as ever I saw for a late settled country—All good buildings quite compact—more so than Oregon City or Salem—more taste and beauty displayed than in either of the others. It is on the Willamette River.”

The village that so charmed Maria Belshaw consisted of little more than a cluster of log cabins and simple wood-frame houses. The octagon-shaped James Millar house, the splendid residence of Walter and Thomas Monteith with a general store in its parlor, and an enormous flour mill dominated the village’s west side. A short distance to the east the Sam Althouse planing mill clung to the wooded bank of the Willamette. Beyond the planing mill, lay Leander Burkhart’s general store. The smooth-flowing river with its ferry that transported travelers to and from the Benton County shore completed the provincial scene. From Albany’s infancy, community leaders dedicated

themselves to establishing a village that would not only survive, but vigorously grow in wealth and population. Soon after purchasing their original claim, the Monteith brothers surveyed and platted sixty acres to launch the town they named Albany. Abram Hackleman divided seventy acres into building sites on the land along the eastern edge of the Monteith claim, a neighborhood that came to be known as Takena. The Magnolia flour mill, part-owned by the Monteiths, was the village’s first industry, and it soon attracted regular steamboat connections and trade with other towns on the Willamette. Construction of churches, schools, and public buildings transformed the village into a “civilized” community that attracted settlement and investment. As a result, the bucolic hamlet of 1853 was transformed into a bustling town.

Albany grew steadily over the following thirty years, and by 1880 had become a stable, prosperous community of nearly 2,000 people. A variety of local industries, nearly all driven by an ingenious hydropower system, provided a sound footing for the town’s economy. Travelers bound for Salem or Portland could choose between river steamers and the Oregon and California Railroad. A volunteer fire department protected life and property and served as one of Albany’s social mainstays. Parents sent their children to one of three neighborhood public schools, and students seeking advanced education could enroll at the Albany Collegiate Institute. Townspeople went to the

Artistic flair, Sumptuous fare!



Museum Member Linda Collins uses colorful rhododendrons and greenery to create tea table centerpieces.



This year's tea was held in the exhibits area where server Larry Bardell is headed with savories and sweets catered by the Ivy Garden Tea Room.



Server Darrel Tedisch freshens a pot of tea for Mamie Henny (left) and Mary Kay Conser.



Tea Mistress Shannon Willard assembles over 70 tea packets for the steady stream of teapots being filled and refilled.



Museum Member volunteer, Mary Lou McCormick, puts the finishing touches on the tea tables in the exhibits hall.

to its steady growth of 6,000 by World War II

opera house for plays, music, and dancing, to the baseball field to watch the local teams battle their rivals from nearby towns, and to the fairgrounds to take in horse races. Men and women mingled with their neighbors at the lodges of the Oddfellows, Masons, and the Elks and their ladies' auxiliaries.

Even though Albany had become one of the Willamette Valley's most important towns, local businessmen yearned for even more dynamic growth and greater prominence. In September 1880, a story in the local State Rights Democrat headlined "Sure This Time," appeared to promise just such a bright future. The newspaper announced that Col. T.E. Hogg had secured from eastern investors financing to construct his long-anticipated—and often delayed—Oregon Pacific Railroad. Col. Hogg's railroad, which he intended to build from Yaquina Bay through Albany and over the Cascade Mountains to Idaho, would be, according to the *Democrat*, "the most important enterprise ever opened to the people of the Central Willamette Valley, and we are more than pleased to...announce the certainty of its



Col. T.E. Hogg

completion. It will be a big boon for Albany...and we cannot fail to regard it as presenting the most tangible and certain prospect for a grand future for our people." Hogg had the money to build 130 miles of the line, to be completed by the end of 1881. Local businessmen wholeheartedly shared the *Democrat's* euphoric assessment.

The colonel claimed he had the resources he needed to proceed: capital, materials, and labor. He underestimated, however, the tremendous amount of money necessary to construct his railroad and misjudged the difficulty of building through the rugged Coast Range. These errors proved to be his eventual undoing.

The passage of time revealed that Col. Hogg was merely a man with out-sized dreams. Owing primarily to his mismanagement, trains of the Oregon Pacific did not steam over the Willamette River drawbridge into Albany until 1887, and the railroad never was built beyond Idanha in the North Santiam canyon. Although Albany missed out on the much-anticipated Oregon Pacific bonanza, the town continued its traditional gradual growth, reaching a population of 6,000 during World War II, the years when the community began to evolve into the city that we know today.

(Learn more about Albany history in Ed Loy's book, *Albany: Gem of the Willamette Valley*. It is available at the Museum Bookstore).

Museum Outreach... History Bites series grows in popularity



Addie Maguire was the featured History Bites speaker in March. She is the Museum Collections Manager and also juggles a second job, managing the Pastega coffee chain in Lebanon and Corvallis. Addie used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the history of coffee as well as current trends, such as cold brewing in boutique batches, for better flavor. After her talk, she asks Tom, Erin, and Jodie how they liked their coffee selections.



Museum member Steve Schuttpelz displays one of his favorite largemouth bass flies at the April History Bites Series. Schuttpelz talked about the importance of novelist Zane Grey in promoting early Oregon fly fishing popularity. He also demonstrated necessary equipment and highlighted local resources to get started in the sport. Schuttpelz shared some fun stories of his favorite area rivers, lakes and ponds.



Museum member Bill Maddy introduces Central PTO President Wendy Geist and Central School Principal Lisa Shogren at the May History Bites Series. They invited the audience to the May 19 time capsule opening and school tour, celebrating the 100th anniversary of the building designed by Albany architect, Charles Burggraf.



Local architect Bill Ryals discusses the significance of Charles H. Burggraf as a regional architect, the focus of the May History Bites program. He points out how Burggraf was ahead of his time stylistically as well as in his engineering applications for building reinforcement.

Five added to Memorial Roll

Five names have been added to the Memorial Roll since the spring edition of the newsletter. They are: Gus August, Mildred Hawkins, Annette Hobbs, Lynn Powers, and Roger Reid.

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 limited time at the Museum on the Memorial Tree.

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 or stop by the reception desk at 136 Lyon St., S for further information.

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

Volunteers needed in variety of roles

From: Duwayne Strauser, Volunteer Coordinator

The volunteer program is a very vital part of the Museum's mission to preserve, exhibit, and encourage knowledge of the history and culture of the Albany, Oregon, area.

Our volunteers spend on average 230 hours a month working with collections, exhibits, research, guiding school, group, and individual tours and participating in various events like the monthly series "History Bites." National statistics state that the hourly wage of a volunteer is equivalent to \$23.00 per hour. By using this dedicated core of volunteers, the Museum saves countless dollars that can be allotted to other projects and services as the Museum continues to expand.

Here's how you can help:

1. Docent: Telling the story of Albany's history
2. Website: Designing and maintaining
3. Social Media: Facebook, Twitter & more
4. Hospitality: Hosting Events
5. Collections/Researching/Preserving
6. Facilities: Maintaining the building & constructing exhibits
7. Photographer: Capturing Museum activities & events

Applications are available at the Museum. Once completed, an interview will follow with the Volunteer Coordinator--and then the fun begins!

Tales from North Albany: Childhoods brimming with fun

By Marquita Olsen Fisher Whitcomb

Edited by Nancy Wilson Tropic

At my birth in North Albany in 1924, a rich "topsoil" of family and neighbors was generously sprinkled and pressed upon my roots: my parents and numerous siblings; cousins, aunts, and uncles; and close neighbors such as the Gregory family, with their lofty IQs and an amazing mother who tooled around in a Model T.

More "topsoil": our teachers, especially the Dueltgens in North Albany School's two classrooms, who sent us off to the town school academically equal; and the jolly members of the North Albany Thimble Club, women who helped us by example or direct intervention to become well-adjusted adults.

These grown-ups were like sheltering trees to nurture and protect us while our lives brimmed with fun. Rowing a "punkinseed" boat on Thornton Lake. Catching a sunfish. Playing marbles and softball, cat-fishing at night by a bonfire of torched old rubber tires, riding bareback on Johnny Kelly's pony, sharing our few books.

We loved to play Kick the Can, especially at night. The sound of one's shoe smashing into tin was far more excitingly resonant than that of the clapper hitting the bell at the Methodist Church we all attended.

The radio was everyone's main source of entertainment and information. My brother Wayne and I loved "Little Orphan Annie." The sponsor was Ovaltine, and by sending in the seal from a can, we would receive a ring that would decipher the secret message broadcast at the end of each daily show. Bewitched, we pleaded until our mama finally bought us the Ovaltine and we got our magic ring. It was nearly dark when we hid behind the barn and twisted the ring. "We've got it!" But what kind of dazzling message is this? "Be good to your mother!"

During the Depression, we overheard the adults' worried whispers. "Oh my, Bobby has outgrown his only shoes." "Will this tire last the winter?" A hobo would often drift in from the railroad tracks to knock on neighborhood doors and ask, "May I work for something to eat?" I never recall them working, but no one was ever turned down.

But how sorry we felt for those men in the newspaper pictures trying to sell an

apple for a dime. Why, on the way home from school, we'd pick up delicious apples and throw them at each other just for fun. A snack might mean a carrot pulled from the earth, or a watermelon or cantaloupe snatched from a neighbor's garden—but then their kids took from our yards, so it was even-Steven.

People in our neighborhood pop out of my long-term memory as crisp and colorful as Disney film clips. Mr. Lopuson clippity-clopping to and from town in his horse and buggy. Ancient and bedridden "Grandma" Austin, who once danced with Abraham Lincoln, toothlessly telling us rhymes and riddles: "Theophilus

Thistle thrust three thousand thistles through the thick of his thumb." Cousin Ardyth sitting in the summer dusk teaching us "Star light, star bright, first star I see tonight . . ." My mother heading to the bedside of a sick neighbor child carrying a blue-stemmed crystal glass filled with a fancy pudding. Aunt Jessie scrubbing the kitchen floor when my sister Freda paid a call to show off her baby sister (me) all decked out in an organdy dress. I stepped backwards, and plop—right into the scrub bucket. So now Aunt Jessie had not only the floor to clean, but her little visitor as well.



Marquita and Wayne Olsen with cousin Melvin Spjut on Thornton Lake, about 1936. (Photos courtesy of Scott Fisher, Marquita's son)

Our Willamette River swimming hole was the gravel bar across from Bryant's Park. A bit older and we gathered there for wiener roasts. When I'm in Albany, I often drive there, sit for a while, watch the river's movement, and plunge into nostalgia and yearning. I wish that my last breath could hold the smell of the river, and that the last sound I would ever hear could be that of its gentle current.

Marquita, whose acting and writing career was featured in the Winter 2011 issue of *Albany Old Times*, passed away in 2010. These memories were written in 1998.



Marquita Olsen in Swedish costume, about 1934.



Wayne and Marquita Olsen with their mother, Anna, in the family car.



136 Lyon Street, S
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Tuesday through Friday
11 am - 4 pm
Saturdays 10 am - 2 pm

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Membership & Events Update

(Continued from Page 3)

Summer Passport Program Launches

Next month will bring a lot of smiling little faces in as the Journey to the Center of Albany (Summer Passport) program begins. It kicks off on Saturday, June 18 at the Albany Visitors Association, 110 Third Avenue SE, from 10 am-1pm. Touring Albany getting your passport filled is a fun outing for children and parents to do together.

Hayes hired to assist....

(Continued from Page 3)

sensory board at Oregon Freeze Dry. Beginning this month she'll be serving on the Benton County Election Board.

In her spare time Kathwren takes violin lessons, quilts, rides her bicycle, is active in the First Christian Church and belongs to a study group she began 31 years ago.

At the Museum she is working with Peggy as part of the Member & Visitor Services team, being a docent, working the front desk, and inputting membership information into the database.

We feel fortunate Kathwren has joined us.

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 \$ _____



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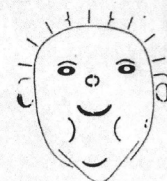
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I'm jolly
and fat, though
I needn't say that ; for a
glance at my size and a look
in my eyes, and you plainly can
see there's no flies upon me. I'm
a little bit short both of breath
and of hair, but from shoulders to
knees you can see I'm all there. I
smile and I laugh, I joke and I chaff;
I refuse to be sad and I never get mad.
But you'd never surmise where my happi-
ness lies, so I'll up and confess what you
never could guess. A good thing to eat is
always a treat, which will make you as sweet
as our sugar cured meat, makes you feel so content
with the money spent that you're bound to feel glad ;
and you couldn't get mad though a man just as thin as
a rail or a pin was to pull at your nose or tread on
your toes. If you're fat or your'e lean, if you're
pleasant or mean, just give W. & T. a show
to sell you right low, you will feel
such a thrill of con- tentment until you'll
wish you were fat to enjoy more of that
For the feeling's immense and you'll
show your good sense by buying
groceries, pro- visions and
crockery of W & T



Wallace & Thompson's Fat Man,

Flinn Block, Albany, Or.

David Fitchett found this whimsical
Wallace & Thompson Grocery
advertisement in the November 19, 1888
Albany Daily Democrat. The store was
located in the Flinn Block on First Avenue.