

# Albany Old Times

## Special Thanks...

In response to the Museum staff Christmas list, the following items were donated to the Museum.

- Textile Covers – Bussard & Sons
- Chest Freezer – Jim Jansen & Jeff Blackford
- Video/DVD Player – David Bussard
- Small Flat Screen TV – Karen Carnahan
- Bike Rack – Jim & Linda Collins

## E & E

## Calendar Events & Exhibits

National Historic Preservation  
May 1 - 31

**Wednesday, May 10**  
"History Bites" – Darrel Tedisch  
History of the Albany Fire  
Department  
Community Room – Noon

**Saturday, May 13**  
Albany Railway History Tour with  
Bill Maddy 10 am, 11 am & 1 pm  
Register for a ticket to ride at the  
Museum

**Wednesday, June 14**  
"History Bites" – Jeanne Brandt,  
OSU Safe Food Preservation  
Community Room – Noon

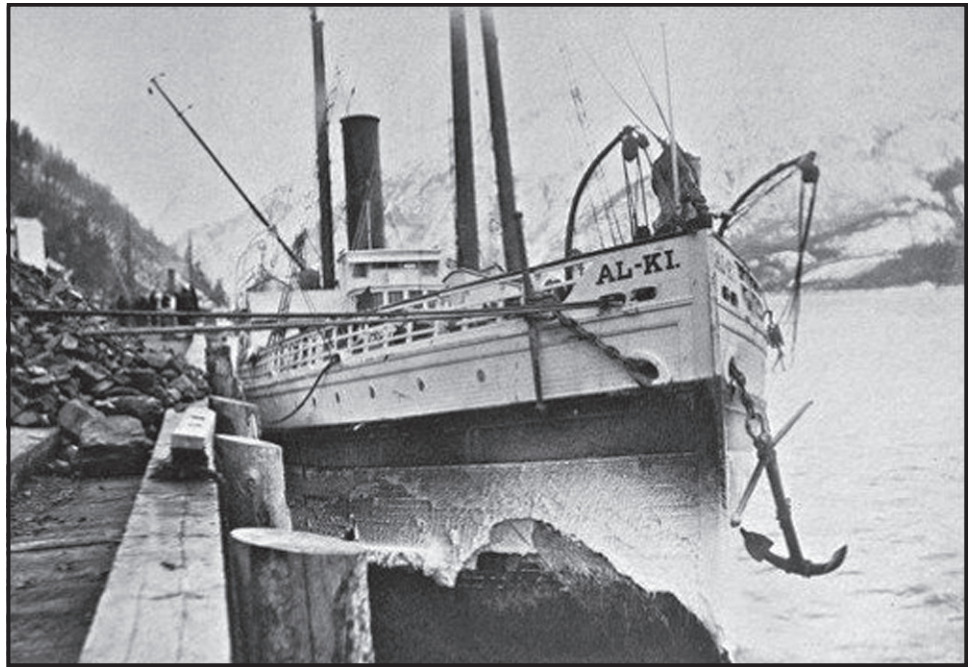
**Wednesday, July 12**  
"History Bites" – Steve Tubbs  
Grass Seed Industry  
Community Room - Noon

**Wednesday, July 26**  
History Through Headstones Tour  
Riverside Cemetery on Broadway  
"Honoring WWI Heroes" 7 pm – dusk

**Saturday, July 29**  
Historic Homes Summer Tour  
11 am – 5 pm Contact the AVA  
for more information

### Upcoming Events/Exhibits Summer 2017

Family Night at the Museum  
Crazy Days (July)  
All-Members Appreciation Barbecue  
(August)  
Dates & Times (TBA)



## Lure of Gold

**By Edward Loy,**

Author and Museum Member

Wind that drives the winter cold into a man's bones. Weeks without daylight. Magical displays of the aurora. The raw energy of boomtowns. But, most of all, the lure of gold.

This is the realm that Charles W. Watts entered after he abandoned Albany to seek his fortune in the harsh, unforgiving Yukon in November of 1897.

Charlie didn't have deep roots in Albany, having moved from Salem with his wife and daughter in the mid-1880s. He had been a partner in the *Salem Statesman*, but, soon after his move, he started a printing business in the Parrish Block at First and Ferry Streets. In 1881 he published a small weekly tabloid, *The Telescope*, but the newspaper folded after about a year. His printing business, too, proved to be a limited success. By 1897 Charlie had become obsessed with his desire to make enough money to provide a comfortable life for his family.

When the news spread in the summer of 1897 that substantial fortunes had been mined from the tributaries of the Klondike River, the lure of riches to be had in the north captured

him. By autumn Charlie had booked passage from Portland on a steamship bound for Juneau and Skagway. He would leave his wife and daughter in their home on Vine Street.

After bouncing between Juneau, Dyea, and Skagway, he tramped over the mountains to the Yukon. In June 1898 he landed in Dawson City. From there he wrote to his wife Emma of his resolve to break completely from his Albany failures:

*I am 40 years of age now—too old to fool away any more of my life there. How one can look at the mistakes of life. Ten years of my life idly spent in a business at which not a cent could be laid by no matter how good the business was. No, indeed I want no more of that in mine. I would rather live here.*

Charlie was cutting ties to his old life and committing to seeking his future in the Yukon.

Note: The author is writing a book based on Charles Watts' experiences in Alaska and the Yukon. He would appreciate hearing from anyone with information about *The Telescope* or about people from Albany who participated in the Klondike gold rush.

## From the director's desk ....community value

Wow! What an amazing start to 2017.

With the help of a dedicated staff, Board of Directors, and volunteers we have completed many of our targeted projects for 2017. Here is a quick look: new tinted glass in the main entry doors; shades in the community room to reduce glare during presentations; update of the main printer for quality photo reproduction and label making for exhibits. All of these projects enhance the Museum's outreach and bring visitors and revenue through the door.

As April approaches, you'll see a movable "barn door" added to the entrance to the community room to enhance the sound inside the room and



**Judie Weissert**

block noise from the main Museum area. The facilities team, with outside help, will be shoring up the basement in three places to allow the city to continue the "streetscape project" on 2nd & Lyon Street.

Other projects included in the Museum's 5 – 10 year plan:

- Enlarging the community room if it is structurally possible
- Moving the current galley

kitchen to an existing storage area for better accessibility to the community room

- Adding more storage to 2nd floor collection area
- Refurbishing restroom on 2nd floor for ADA compliance
- Adding a rated wall assembly at the stairwells for separation
- Adding exterior elevator for access to 2nd floor
- Building façade restoration on Lyon Street side

As you can see, we have a hefty plan ahead, but with help from the community and private support, the Albany Regional Museum can sustain and grow while keeping the integrity of the buildings early history.

You are probably asking how you can help. Here are just a few suggestions:

- Become an annual member
- Volunteer your time
- Provide In-kind services
- Make a monetary donation

The Albany Regional Museum is a community treasure providing an extensive look at early Albany history through educational and research opportunities while preserving and documenting its artifacts generously donated to the Museum over the past thirty-seven years.

Our passion for history, culture and an educated community provide the value.

Won't you join us?

### Museum Directors:

Darrel Tedisch, Chair  
Kristen Schuttpelz, Vice-chair  
Linda Collins, Secretary  
Ruth Alderson  
Kitty Buchner  
Dennis Burkhardt  
Jason Darling  
David F. Fitchett  
Cathy Ingalls  
Jim Jansen  
Howard Poppleton  
Erik Rau  
Jeff Sawyer

### Liaison:

Rebecca Bond,  
Albany Visitors Association

### Staff:

Judie Weissert, Director  
Mara McKinney, Collections Manager, Visitor & Member Services  
Kathwren Hayes, Visitor & Member Services  
Peggy Kowal, Volunteer Coordinator  
Wendy Gammell, Graphic Design & Layout  
Ruth Detrich, Proof Reader

## Museum Updates

The Spring Tea is cancelled for 2017. Museum staff, directors and volunteers are working to complete a couple of major projects. However, we are looking for chair/co-chairs to plan 2018. Interested? Call or email the Museum.

Family Night at the Museum is scheduled for mid-summer 2017. Watch for flyers and info on our website and Facebook.

Summer Passport Program is cancelled in its present form for 2017. After a 5-year run, the supporters are looking at other opportunities. Check the websites and Facebooks of the Museum and the Albany Visitors Association as we get closer to summer.

All-Members Appreciation Barbecue. In appreciation of your generous support of the Museum, join staff and directors for a twist from ice cream. Watch for date and time in August, 2017.

Electronic vs Printed Newsletter – staff and volunteers will be calling to verify your current email address, and if you haven't done so and wish to add your email to the museum list we can take care of it at that time. Your personal email would only be used to send the newsletter or provide updates to Museum events and activities. For those members who don't have access to a phone/computer, the museum will have copies available here, or one can be mailed.

## New Volunteer Coordinator



**Peggy Kowal**

When Judie told me Duwayne Strauser had stepped down as Volunteer Coordinator, I knew it was the position for me. I retired last August after nine years, but miss seeing everyone so thought this was a great opportunity to help and reconnect with people.

Volunteering makes one joyful. The rewards you receive are greater than what you give. If you're looking for that feeling stop in at the museum and fill out an application. There are many areas of opportunity. If you have questions about our volunteer program, please email me at fpkowal@msn.com or call me at 541.926.3866. I look forward to working with you.

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



# The Linn County Fair hasn't always been in Albany

By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Volunteer

In the early 1800s, people in the eastern portion of the United States attended the very first community fairs to learn and trade ideas about agricultural equipment, livestock breeding and increasing crop yields.

In Linn County, residents gathered to do the same thing for the first time on October 10, 1856, in Albany under the auspices of the County Agricultural Society. Early pioneers brought their goods to the fair, and 25 exhibitors received 54 premiums, according to Floyd Mullen, author of *The Land of Linn: An Historical Account of Linn County, Oregon*.

After that fair, succeeding events were held in locations throughout the county.

In 1858, Mullen writes that the fair was in Edmundson's Grove, about seven miles from Albany "on the west side of Calapooia Creek at the crossing of the road leading from Albany to Burlington." That put the locations near Blevins Bridge west of Tangent. He notes that fair organizers had different classes for horses, cattle, sheep and a "pair of fowls." Items on display that had to be produced in the county, included plows, harrows, cultivators, threshers, reapers, wagons, carriages,



Representing five 4-H Clubs: L to R: Jerry Cole, Doug Gatchell, Merlene Manhing, Doug Swanson, Mary Lou Eggleston & Betty Stellmacher

harnesses and saddles. Also there were "five yards of jeans, pair of socks, quilts, bedstead, set of chairs, kitchen furniture, pair of shoes or boots, pottery ware and specimens of brick."

Two years later in 1860, the fair moved to Yarborough's Grove, about a halfmile west of Halsey, and in 1864 fairgoers traveled to Boston, east of Shedd.

The next reference indicates that the fair in 1890 was south of Albany on the Cathey property, where there was room for horse races.

In 1907 the fair moved to Scio

on land east of the town on Lyons Road. The event included the organized display of farm products. Also the French Trappist Monks of the Catholic Church in Jordan erected a building fair officials could use. To help cover the costs, the governing board voted to charge an admission fee for all cars bringing people to the fair.

Mullen notes that in 1915, the railroad established special train excursion rates from Albany to the fairground to entice city folks to attend. The cost was 60 cents round trip from Albany to Munkers Station located about a halfmile west of Scio.

Three years later, organizers voted to allow school children in for free on the first day if they had a report card showing an average of 90 or better in deportment.

The big draw at the 1918 fair was a Chester White hog weighing 790 pounds owned by Mr. Duffield of Scio. The hog was thought to be the second largest in the state.

To help cover costs until 1919, the sponsoring organization sold membership certificates, hoping to draw people from throughout Linn County and the Willamette Valley. Besides the certificates, the Linn County Court in 1919 in an effort to save the fair provided \$1,000 and the state contributed \$1,657.

After that fair, directors realized that the small town of Scio couldn't afford to stage the fair any longer so the fair moved to Albany south of the Southern Pacific depot on a 35-acre property purchased for \$15,000. The location known as Goltra Field was north of Queen Avenue and between Howard and Ferry Streets. Fairs were held at that location for the next 10 years, but then financial problems began to plague the sponsors. The main fair events were curtailed, however for the next several years, 4-H and FFA continued to hold

(Continued on Page 6)

## History Bites welcomes record attendance

The first three months of 2017 brought the largest audiences for our monthly series since its inception three years ago. Upcoming topics include the Albany Fire Department, Safe Food Preservation, the Grass Seed Industry, the upcoming Solar Eclipse, and Emergency Planning.



January – Authors Panel

Del & Pat Riley, *Behind Colorful Doors*, representing Deleen Willis; Charline King, *Adair Diary*; Kathy Hering, *Designer Mysteries*, and Jim Lindsay, *The Little Bastards* short stories sequel



February – Generations of Assisting Families Wally Ordeman with the Fisher Family History



March – A Visit with the Monteith House Museum Chet Houser, Monteith Historic Society

# Teamwork makes the difference

By Mara McKinney, Collections Manager

With the help of devoted volunteers, the last three months have been spent transforming the collections storage. No longer are the shelves and racks filled with random artifacts; they are now neatly categorized. Beth Bargsten, Lyn McGuire, and Board Member Ruth Alderson, have been a crucial element in our work. Throughout the process, we found fascinating artifacts, such as an old Japanese painting set, a beautiful Native American beaded jacket, and a large box labeled, "Do Not Open Unless You Know What You are Doing!" As it turns out, this box was filled with immaculate beaver pelts.

Our Reference Room now has a military



Andrew Tattersall

section—come in and check it out! Linda Collins and Duwayne Strauser helped to clean and organize the room to make materials easier to locate and access.

Nadia Ilyin, Keo Teghtmeyer, and Linda Collins did a terrific job converting the box of wooden hangers into archival safe hangers. We can now hang appropriate textiles on the new racks.

Dennis Burkhart has been preparing both kitchen artifacts, and documents, for entry into the Museum database, PastPerfect. This consists of sorting, measuring, and writing down relevant information. So far, we have discovered over 40 maps, and several boxes

of historical documents, not pertaining to Linn County; I am working to find these documents appropriate homes.

Our history intern from Corban University, Andrew Tattersall, spends his time entering the military artifacts into PastPerfect. Also, Andrew will be researching the history of the Native American artifacts which have no connection to Albany, and working on various projects around the museum.

We welcome new volunteers Maggie Renteria, Jen Cornelius, Clara Scillian Kennedy, and LBCC intern Mike Hernandez, to our team. We are excited and happy to have them helping in collections and with other activities!



Beth Bargsten & Lyn McGuire



Maggie Renteria & Ruth Alderson

## Mae Yih book signing draws 100 guests

Longtime Albany-area legislator Mae Yih previewed and signed copies of her new autobiography Wednesday, February 15th, at the Museum. Yih, who made history in 1976 when she became the first Chinese-American woman elected to a state legislature.

Proceeds from "*East Meets West: A Bridge to Understanding, Friendship, Trust, Peace and Prosperity Between My Mother and Adopted Countries*" raised over \$2,100 for the Museum to purchase materials for the reference library.



Yih personalizing copies of her book



Will Tucker, Linn County Commissioner with Mae Yih



# The stately Peacock House

By Cathy Ingalls, Museum Member

At one time the stately Peacock House stood at the corner of Hickory Street and North Albany Road, but with time and family deaths the graceful Italianate structure gradually fell into disrepair and so it was torn down. The property which was not known for peacocks but was a family name, gave way to what is now North Albany Village.



The house was built by William Fairweather Peacock, originally from Arbroath, Scotland, arriving with his wife Mary E. Whetsone

in Albany in 1883 and purchased 20 acres of land. On the site, Peacock grew grapes, walnuts, rhubarb, cauliflower and tended apple, pear, and cherry trees. He sold his produce in town.

Peacock, who was born in 1845, built the family's home in two stages. The back portion of the wood frame house was started in 1885 and faced Estate Lane. According to family members, the house contained a long, narrow kitchen, large dining room and one bedroom. The front section built later had a living room and a parlor that had a piano and a pipe organ. A grand staircase led to the second floor that boasted several bedrooms. Outside, there were a number of steps leading to a porch and the front door over which "Wm Peacock" was written in gold letters.

Peacock made sure that the inside of his home was big enough to hold his darkroom and photography and taxidermy collections. Some of his favorite wildlife on display on the main floor included various birds, pheasants, beavers, squirrels and perhaps foxes.

Outside, he cultivated plantings in a greenhouse that reportedly had a roof made of glass photography plates. When plates in the greenhouse broke, he repurposed them so he could design and build a small projector run by candlelight that he called his "magic Lantern."

Tragedy struck the family on March 18, 1901, when Peacock's wife died several weeks

after giving birth to their 13th child, Mary. The baby died on March 24. Later that year, Peacock married Olive V. Hughes.

Death came again on September 2, 1909. Peacock was digging a well with the help of his sons Asa and William H. when seven feet of dirt fell in on Asa, who was at the bottom of the hole. William H. attempted to rescue his brother, but the hole caved in a second time, trapping them both. Their father continued to live in his house until 1941, dying at the age of 96.

According to a source in the Albany paper, Peacock's funeral was held on November 1 at the Fortmiller Funeral Home with Dr. D.H. Leech and the Rev. Charles Welch officiating. Singers were Dr. L.W. Gatchell, Glenn Taylor, Stanley Peterson and Philip Lehman. They were accompanied by Hazel Ewing. Women in charge of flowers were Mrs. Russell Parker, Mrs. Curtis Doty and Mrs. Herman Abraham. Honorary pallbearers were Sam Gilbert, A.J. Hodges, W.H. Holman, John Creswell, W.L. Jackson and F.E. Jenks. The active pallbearers were Emil Anderson, Hugh Perfect, Elmer Goff, Richard Pundt, J.A. Howard and Oliver Anderson.

Peacock was buried at Riverside Cemetery.

More information about the Peacock can be found in the September 2011 issue of Albany Old Times.

## Museum happenings....

Cleaning Out the Attic Sale – January 26 – 28, 2017, raised over \$1,300 for museum collections to purchase archival materials. Hot items for sale were wood yardsticks with business names, cigarette vending machine, washing machines, small printing press and more. We still have a beautiful cash register for sale, 1920's vintage for \$300. Give us a call if you're interested.



Family and friends gathered in the Museum's Community Room to help Russ Tripp celebrate his 90th Birthday, February 9th.



**Mystery Object at Attic Sale**

**Do you know what this is?**



**Russ Tripp with family & friends**



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



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## The Linn County Fair

(Continued from Page 3)

their events at the location before they opted to move to Bryant Park.

A permanent fairground was constructed in 1948 at 3051 Oakwood Avenue SE in Albany for \$40,000. Money was provided by the Oregon Racing Commission, according to Democrat-Herald stories on file at the Albany Regional Museum. Funds were used to purchase 10 acres of land and to construct a new 4-H building. The structure was designed by H. R. Sinnard, the architect of the Oregon State University Experimental Station. The framed structure measured 140 feet by 187 feet. The building had 100 pens, stall space for 175 head of cattle, a show and sale ring, a temporary kitchen and portable bleachers that sat 600. The Willamette Valley Purebred Ram & Ewe Sale was the first event staged at the fairground,

August 7, 1948.

The buildings at the fairground stood until 1997, when Lloyd's Excavating and demolition of Mulino was paid \$83,627 to remove the 4-H structure along with stables, a demonstration building, a caretaker's house and a livestock pen that were added later. The county commissioners deemed the buildings dated, and said they were fire traps and too old and too small. The site now contains the Costco store and gas station.

In the summer of 1997, the new Linn County Fair & Expo Center east of Interstate 5 at 3700 Butte Road was dedicated.

*Fast Forward to 2017. The Museum and Linn County 4-H are forming a partnership to bring 4-H Club members to the Museum to work with and engage with other young individuals interested in agricultural projects in and around the area. Watch for more information in early summer.*

## Three names added to memorial roll

Have you ever considered giving a memorial gift in honor of a family member or friend? Memorial gifts help the museum meet special needs and provide a lasting remembrance to our community.

Memorials are listed in the Albany Old Times newsletter, on the armuseum.com website and on our in-house Memorial Tree.

Names added to the Memorial Roll for 2017 are: Dalton Cooley DMD, Larry Webster and Gordon "Leon" Widmer.

Gift amounts can be of your choosing...\$25, \$50, \$100 are popular denominations. A letter of remembrance is mailed to the designated recipient. A Thank You card is sent to the person donating for tax documentation.

## 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

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