

# The Artifact

LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM

www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org

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## Did You Know?

by Bob Hart

The search for a Lane County Historical Museum site is an old story. A Lane County Pioneer Museum and Veterans Memorial Commission was established in 1935; Commissioner Cal Young was the chairman. Plans were ambitious; architect John Hunsaker even designed a museum building atop Skinner Butte! But a Congressional appropriation for a new city post office provided an opportunity to utilize an existing building and site. Frank Chambers suggested that the quarter block north of the old post office be acquired for a replacement post office and that the old post office become the new museum. He donated a large lot on the new site; an additional \$26,000 was then expended to acquire title and prepare for construction. Postmaster General James A. Farley personally delivered the deed for the old building's site to the county and a public dinner was held in his honor. With war clouds threatening, Eugene Postmaster Frank Armitage proposed that the old post office building temporarily house homeless Federal agencies. It seemed the patriotic thing to do. Oregon Senator Charles L. McNary introduced a bill in Congress to purchase the property back for the government for \$150,000, a potential windfall for the county. But then the country went to war, and the bill was never passed. The Federal government continued to use the property until its sale in 1959.

Old and new post office buildings on the west side of Willamette Street, c. 1940



## Letter From the Director

The advent of the winter solstice, the arrival of the holidays, and the end of the calendar year consistently incline me to retrospection. 2008 has been a year of clear progress for the Society and Museum. It began with significant staffing changes, the arrival of some significant new talent, and has finished up with a Museum in transformation as we ready for Oregon 150.

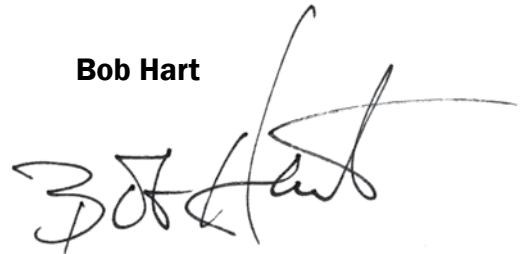
Linda Bright is successfully manipulating QuickBooks, Mary Dole is coordinating exhibit development, and Heather Hill is coordinating educational activities. Our photographic digitization project is now a year old, made the *Register Guard's* front page last January, and has garnered grant support from several different organizations. It has also attracted talented UO students to scan the images and record the data (Katie, Rachel, Kimberley and David). And the other Museum activities have attracted both on-site UO class sessions, and both interns and practicum students (Sally, Kat and Valerie). Graduation works its attrition on our part-time student help and we will be losing Kathleen Glass in 2009 (this is her last Society newsletter!).

As the country is looking forward expectantly to a new national administration, so the Museum is awaiting the New Year and the fallout of the current economic chaos. We know that we will not be insulated from the effects of a contracting economy, but we see other than just stormy weather ahead. A new computer server will upgrade our electronic infrastructure and the county's upcoming rehabilitation of our aging heating systems will improve the Museum's environmental controls.

The highlight of my year has been the two and a half hours I spent recently with Don Hunter going over the "Ed's Coed" movie. Unsurprisingly, I took copious notes. Don's memory is phenomenal; he was able to identify the location of almost every scene shot in the movie! He also shared with me that as a young student in 1929, he got to hold a reflector while one of the movie scenes was shot and identified the bridge upon which his parents once courted.

I hope that you have kept both the Society and the Oregon Cultural Trust in your year end giving plans. The photographic digitization project has garnered \$11,000 to date from two successive grants from the OCT. We could not have engaged in this worthwhile project without their help.

**Bob Hart**



## Many thanks to our collection donors of 2008!

The following people generously donated photographs, documents, books or objects to enhance our museum collections during 2008. We appreciate their thoughtfulness and support. Because of our focus on Lane County history and our limited storage space, we are unable to accept all items offered. But we do want to thank all those potential donors for thinking of LCHSM and for their commitment to commemorating our heritage as well.

Sylvia Baker	Ginny McVickar
Elizabeth Beairsto-Lamont	Sandra Miles
Helen Bell	Mary Murphy (Lane County Archives)
Benton County Historical Society & Museum	Levon Nelson
Donald Brodie	Lanny Olivier (Eugene Magazine)
Robert E. Callison	Sandra Parker
Ray Cavagnaro	Ann Pfrender
Sydney Clingenpeel	Anita and Lillian Pierce
Wilma Crowe	Charles A. Query
Sharon Culver	Dan Rehwalt
Hal Davidson	John Richardson
Mary Dole	Charles Roffe
Alva Jean Fuller	Duane F. Root
Sally Green	Rosboro Lumber Company
James Grimes	Virginia Sherwood
Leslie C. Grogan	Joanne and Tom Snyder
Ken Guzowski (City of Eugene)	Christine Taylor-Thompson (UO Campus Planning)
Betsy Halpern (Assistance League of Eugene)	Linda L. Van Orden
Phyllis Falk Hart	James West-Herr
Bernice Hartwig	Susan Z. Whitney
Claudette Hepner	Kathi Wiederhold (Central Lane Metropolitan Planning Organization)
Carol Hildebrand (Friends of the Eugene Public Library)	Leigh and Sharon Wilcox
Institute of Museum & Library Services	Dick Williams (Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House)
Harry Kime	Ernie Winterstein
Gary Kirk	



## New Victorian Parlor Exhibit

by Mary Dole

Our new Victorian Parlor exhibit will be located in a central position on the ground floor of the museum so that more visitors will have the opportunity to view it. We have taken advantage of the decision to move the parlor exhibit downstairs. It is an opportunity to increase the visual appeal and historical accuracy by adding finishing touches such as wallpaper and a wood floor. We will also add some architectural features that will allow the visitor to view the exhibit from two sides by adding a pair of Victorian windows on one side and open archway with a spandrel above on the opposite side.



**Parlor of the J.S. Luckey/Septimus residence, 641 Pearl Street (985 Pearl Street after 1913).**

**This is the second Luckey residence built on the site c. 1893-1896.**

The new exhibition will include furnishings from our old exhibition along with furniture and items from our collection that have not been on exhibit for some time.

Construction on the exhibit is underway. The framing and drywall are complete. We anticipate the new Victorian Parlor exhibition will be open by the middle of January.



**(Right) Construction on the parlor was underway late last year; (Above) By mid December, great progress was being made on finishing the exterior of the exhibit**



## The Latest Outreach Trunk Grant

Last year the Museum received a Juan Young Trust grant for a second educational outreach trunk; the Trust so liked the grant proposal that they encouraged us to come back a second time! Educational Coordinator Heather Hill prepared a second grant request and received notice of a \$3,000 award in November. Last year's trunk was devoted to Westward Migration, our most popular trunk theme. This year's project is the creation of a 1930s and World War II era-themed trunk for use in the schools. Teachers may check out any of the outreach trunks for a week at a time. To make a reservation, please call Heather at the Museum, Tuesday - Friday.

## Especially for Kids: New Children's Area Opens

by Mary Dole

As of November 29th the Lane County Historical Museum has a new exhibition area that was designed with our younger visitors in mind. The opening event was well-attended and included a number of costumed interpreters mingling with the visitors to tell stories of their characters. Children were everywhere!

The new exhibit features a number of interactive opportunities for kids. A large puppet theatre complete with red velvet curtains is reminiscent of old theatres. Along with the puppet theatre are more than 20 well-dressed puppets representing various periods in history from 1840s through 1960s. A dress up area centered around an old dresser and stacks of hat boxes invites children to try on period hats and costumes. In another area a backdrop of covered wagons at night, a tent, a crackling faux fire, and an old trunk full of vintage pots and pans invite children to try cooking over the camp fire.

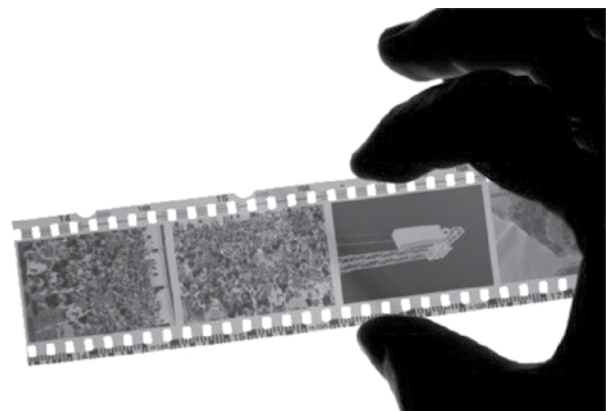


The new children's area is a permanent exhibition. It also contains a large case with an exhibit of building sets and board games. The exhibits in this case will be changed periodically.

## Oregon Cultural Trust Support Continues

In July of last year the photographic digitization project received its initial financial infusion (\$5,000) through the cultural development grant program of the Oregon Cultural Trust. In October of this year the Museum's continuing digitization project received a second cultural development grant, this time of \$6,000, through the Oregon Cultural Trust. To date nearly 3,600 of the Museum's estimated 9,000 fragile nitrate negatives have been digitized at high resolution and stored for future use. The current OCT grant monies, with a 50-50 match requirement, will carry the project into fall 2009.

Last year's  
scanning total:  
**Nearly 3,600  
negatives scanned!**





# Oregon Celebrations...

## *Photos from the Nitrate Negatives Project*



Children's  
chorus performs for the  
"Trail to Rail" event. August 5, 1926



1937 Oregon Trail Pageant.



Queen Sussana of the  
Trail to Rail Pageant, poses with her court.  
August 1926



Oregon "Trail to Rail" Pageant's "King Klamath Falls and Queen Eugene" represent the union of western and eastern Oregon by Southern Pacific's Natron Cut-off railroad route over the Cascade Mountain summit, 1926





1937 Oregon Trail Pageant. View of 14 oxen pulling logging wheels during a parade. Looking north on Willamette Street from 8th Ave.



Oregon Trail Pageant  
float: Medo-Land Creamery July 28, 1934

# Celebrating Oregon's 150th Birthday!



## Sesquicentennial Speakers Series

MUSE is partnering with the City of Eugene Public Library to offer films, presentations, and a book signing that highlight Oregon's history. Events will be held at the Eugene Public Library on Sundays from 2-4pm. Specific event dates follow:

- **February 15:** *Oregon 1859: A Snapshot in Time*, book signing and discussion with author Janice Marschner. Sponsored by the LCHM.
- **February 22:** *On Paper Wings*, film and discussion with filmmaker Ilana Sol. Sponsored by the LCHM.
- **March 1:** *Ed's Coed*, film and discussion with James Foxx of UO Special Collections. Sponsored by the LCHM.
- **March 15:** *Women Photographers in Oregon, 1852-1917*. Carol Glauber discusses the work of four early women photographers and their work documenting the Columbia River Gorge, Native Americans, and the development of the Klamath Basin. Oregon Humanities Council Chautauqua Program.
- **March 8:** *Out of the Ordinary Oregon*, discussion with Connie Battaile. Oregon Humanities Council Chautauqua Program.
- **March 22:** *A Tale of Two Rivers*, Janet Brown discusses the history of the formation and interaction with the Deschutes and Willamette Rivers. Oregon Humanities Council Chautauqua Program
- **March 29:** *Innovators & Traders: The Indigenous People of the Columbia River*, Pat Courtney Gold discusses the rich heritage of the cultural and financial commerce conducted up and down the Columbia River. Sponsored by the UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History.

## Museum events

- **February 14:** New exhibit opening: *Changing Demographics: The People of Lane County (free admission)*. This exhibit will highlight different racial and ethnic groups that have constituted Lane County since before European contact and continuing to present day
- **February 14:** Annual meeting for our members & special guest speaker: Doug Card, time: 10a.m.

## Special events and opportunities around town

- **February 14-15:** Special events and presentations at the Frontier Heritage Festival held at the Lane County Fairgrounds (see flyer on next page)
- **February 14:** Shelton-McMurphey-Johnson House: Valentine High Teas, noon & 3pm, \$25 per person \*reservation required\*
- **February 14:** FREE ADMISSION to many local cultural and historical organizations (including but not necessarily limited to: The Jordan Schnitzer Museum of Art, Museum of Natural and Cultural History, & the Lane County Historical Museum)



**FRONTIER HERITAGE FESTIVAL**  
CELEBRATES OREGON'S 150TH BIRTHDAY!

**FEBRUARY 14 & 15, 2009**

**AUDITORIUM**  
LANE COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS  
EUGENE, OREGON



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## **New Museum Publication- From Camas to Courthouse: Early Lane County History**

By Kathleen Glass

Early last fall, the Lane County Historical Society and Museum was pleased to announce the release of the publication, *From Camas to Courthouse: Early Lane County History*. Funded by a grant from the Lane Education Service District (Lane ESD), the book was born out of the collaborative effort of many individuals. These include author Douglas Card, editor Lucile McKenzie, Robert Young of Lane ESD, members of the Lane County Historical Society Publications Committee including Bob Hart, Steve McQuiddy, Ken Metzler, Karen Seidel, and Dorothy Velasco, as well as coordinators from Shelton-Turnbull Printing, Museum staff and volunteers, and other local historians.

*From Camas to Courthouse* tells the stories of early Lane County history, primarily dating back to the early 19th century. Though not intended to be an all-inclusive, encyclopedic, historical record of the community's past, this book represents some of the most interesting stories of the people and events that shaped Lane County as it exists today; furthermore, it is currently the most comprehensive account of early 19th century Lane County history available. As the author, Douglas Card, describes in the Introduction:

"Some of these are tales of adventure and success, others of tragedy and defeat. Some are stories of the great political movements of the day; others reveal the personal day to day lives of those whose feet trod our land so many years ago. There are inspiring stories of people coming together for their mutual and community benefit, as well as tales of struggles and conflict...all of these events took place within or near the hills, mountains, rivers, shorelines, and valleys of today's Lane County, and many left an imprint we share today."

While recently discussing the book with Doug, I asked him to briefly talk about his background and personal interest in Lane County's history, as well as his process and inspirations in writing the narrative for the book. A native Oregonian, Doug developed an early interest in Coos County history. Later, upon returning to Oregon in the late 1970's after spending some years in both the Midwest and in San Diego, he also became interested in both Douglas County and Lane County history. He taught at the University of Oregon as a professor of Sociology for many years, and during this time period was inspired by the work of many historians, including past Lane County Museum librarian Marty West, and the late Lavola Bakken of Douglas County. He described the process of writing the narrative for *From Camas to Courthouse*, as a very organic process, and furthermore as both a challenging experience and rewarding accomplishment.

He also spoke of the importance of including stories of how many people, including Native Americans, shaped the history of Lane County. He notes in the introduction of the book that,

"...there are two Master Narratives of our history. One, based on the old idea of Manifest Destiny and the 'Winning of the West', focuses on the incredible progress which the heroic explorers, pioneers and their followers made in converting a 'wilderness' into a flourishing democracy for themselves, their families and descendants.





The railroad, the University of Oregon, schools and churches, advanced agricultural technology, flour mills, all moved society towards Progress. Real Progress was also made in the struggle for social justice and a more democratic society. The other narrative recognizes that there was also a losing of the West, an ancient people and their culture almost totally pushed from their aboriginal homeland. Were the pioneers settlers or invaders? Emotional terms such as 'exploration' of ancient landscapes, and the 'progress' of environmental exploitation and destruction, become questionable from this perspective.....this reminds us that the writing of a fair and objective social history is extremely difficult. There is the question of balance, of including stories from all perspectives, a goal we've pursued here."

As we approach the celebration of Oregon's 150th birthday next month, we are especially excited about the release of this exciting new publication. We would like to encourage you to stop by the Museum Store to purchase your very own copy and to share these important stories of our community's past with Lane County friends and neighbors!



**Previous Page:** Charli Tufti, a Molalla of the Oak Ridge Region, found on pg. 17 of the book;  
**This page:** (Left) Siletz Indian mother and child, from pg. 21 of the book, and (above) Eugene Skinner, from pg. 35

# The Artifact

*The Artifact* is produced quarterly and distributed to members of Lane County Historical Society and Museum

## Membership Benefits

- Receive "Lane County Historian" 3 times per year
- Receive "The Artifact", our quarterly newsletter
- Free admission to museum exhibits
- Invitation to members-only events
- Discount on museum gift shop purchases
- Discount on research requests

## Museum Information

- Phone: (541) 682-4239; [24 hour recorded info]
- Office: (541) 682-4242, Tuesday-Friday 9am-4pm
- Email: [info@lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org)
- Website: [www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org](http://www.lanecountyhistoricalsociety.org)

## Museum Store

The Museum Store features Oregon Trail and local history books, watercolor prints by local artists, note cards and postcards, gift wrap, quilt gifts, old fashioned toys, & more!

## Admission

Adults \$3.00, Seniors 60+ \$2.00  
Youth (15-17) \$.75, 14 & under FREE  
*Members Free*

## Museum Hours

Tuesday-Saturday, 10am-4pm

## Museums Announcements & Events

**January 15:** Victorian Parlor exhibit opens.

**February 14:** Happy 150th Birthday to Oregon! Join us in celebrating the Oregon Sesquicentennial (through the end of September). **Museum events below (more Eugene events listed inside newsletter)**

**2/14:** New exhibit opening: *Changing Demographics: The People of Lane County* (**free admission**)

**2/14:** Annual meeting for our members & special guest speaker: Douglas Card. Time: 10:00 am

**2/15:** *Oregon 1859: A Snapshot in Time*, book signing and discussion with author Janice Marschner, hosted by LCHM, Eugene Public Library 2-4pm

**2/22:** *On Paper Wings*, film and discussion with filmmaker Ilana Sol, Eugene Public Library 2-4pm

**3/1:** *Ed's Coed*, film and discussion with James Foxx of UO Special Collections, Eugene Public Library 2-4pm

**3/29:** *Innovators & Traders: The Indigenous People of the Columbia River*, discussion with Pat Courtney Gold, Eugene Public Library 2-4pm

