

Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



Silverton's Covered Bridge



One hundred years ago the covered bridge spanning Silver Creek became history. We don't know when the first covered bridge was built across the creek. Homer Davenport wrote about his first awareness of the bridge when he was four years old. The one standing in 1910 was apparently only 17 years old according to a memorial poem written later in the spring of that year by E.S. Longacre. (see page 3)

It was in 1909 the county proposed to build a steel bridge. It would measure 20 to 24 feet wide, the only provision being that the city would build the stone abutments at each end of the bridge. The city council, meeting the first part of November, agreed to accept the offer, but only if the taxpayers would vote to levy a tax. The abutments would

cost about \$3000 and a special election would need to be called. (Even in 1909 there were taxes! You want improvements, you gotta pay for 'em.)

The *Silvertonian-Appeal* reported on the city council's regular monthly session in the March 11, 1910 issue. Was the new steel bridge first on the agenda? No. First on the agenda was a petition of one E.W. Hall to operate a popcorn and peanut wagon on the city streets.

Second on the agenda was the bridge and the letting of bids to build the abutments. The highest bid was \$8.68 per cubic yard. The lowest bidder was Mr. J.W. Welty. He asked \$40 for moving the old bridge (as the year moves along, we'll try to find where he moved it to!) and \$5.50 per cubic yard to build the stone abutments.

Steel for the bridge was expected to be "on the ground" by July 1st and the abutments would need to be ready at that time. A bond was needed but now the price had dropped to \$2,500.

And so it was. Silverton got its first 'modern' bridge. The covered bridge, where folks would leave messages and their 'news' and their 'ads', "fine horse for sale", and take shelter from the rain, would be no more.

Oh yes, and you were wondering about Mr. Hall and his popcorn wagon? Well he did get permission to "manipulate his business" on the streets but only under the supervision of the chief of police.

Carolyn Hutton

Curator's Corner March 2010

Thank you to the board members present at the last board meeting for approving the accession of all the items donated to the museum in January. Since I wasn't there either, I appreciate their trust in my recommendations.

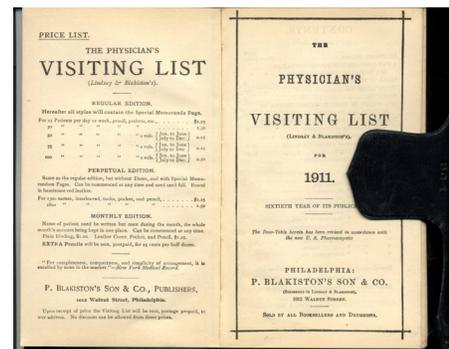
Because of being gone the last two weeks of February and a looming move-in date to our gently-used 'new' house, I'm not sure what day it is! Thanks to Chris Schwab for bringing me up to date and for fielding requests and for doing all that she does.

Chris happened to be at the museum on our Tuesday work day when who should walk in but a granddaughter of June Drake, Silverton's foremost photographer and historian. She brought her son so he could learn about his family. They looked through our Drake files and requested many copies of articles. We don't have a thick file on Mr. Drake's life but, you could say, that the museum is Drake. Without him we wouldn't have the documentation of Silverton's historical presence.

Two other requests for research came from Gordon Munro and a gentleman interested in the Battle of the Abiqua.

Donations that were brought to the museum during February came again from Dr. Kleinsorge's descendants. His granddaughter, Elizabeth Turner, brought several items from the Doctors estate to add to our growing collection of Kleinsorge archives.

In the Red Sox collection, we'll be adding a trophy from George Matile. He was awarded the statue in 1950 for being the best infielder. He lived with the Hande's when he played for the Red Sox and he and Jack are still good buddies. He asked Jack to donate the trophy to the museum.



Physician's Visiting List 1911

Jack's connections are a wonderful benefit for the museum. He called last night, excited about two scrapbooks coming to the museum from the family of another of his friends, Don Peters. The scrapbooks contain only articles related to Silverton men and women who were in WW II. I can hardly wait to see them!

Carolyn Hutton

Please don't forget to renew!! The first of the year is when most SCHS memberships are due—if it is time for you to renew, there will either be a notice in with this newsletter or, for e-mail subscribers, a notice will follow separately. Please take a moment to update your membership information and return it to us along with your very reasonable dues payment. Your support is what lets us know we are doing a good job in preserving Silverton's history and in keeping you informed on what is going on at the museum and in the community. **Thank you!!!**

The next few issues of the SCHS newsletter will be covering Silverton of 100 years ago – we will be highlighting stories from the area that made up the news in 1910, beginning with this issue's story on the replacement plans for the covered bridge over Silver Creek on Main Street. We will also be including small items from the period that will help us see what life was like in the early 20th century in Silverton. Join us as we step back to a simpler (?) time.

This poem appeared in the Silvertonian Appeal (as it was called then) on May 27, 1910, as work was beginning on the replacement of the bridge across Silver Creek.



Farewell to Silverton Bridge
By E.S. Longacre

Farewell old bridge they'll take you down,
Then we must wade the creek.
I warrant we'll not go to town
Much more than twice a week.

Well have you served us 19 years,
And very faithful too;
But now we have such nervous fears
We long for something new.

There was a time we thought it grand
To have so good a bridge,
But now we take a higher stand
Since we have auto rigs.

We want a bridge of latest style,
Of concrete and of steel.
We well can ford the creek awhile
If we can safer feel.

They say you're old and joints are weak,
Therefore you are condemned.
If you should tumble in the creek,
'Twould be too late to mend.

So do not fret or cry old bridge
Because we pass you by,
We know we'll often think of you,
And maybe sometimes sigh.

Yes sigh to think how many friends
Have crossed on way to tomb;
There on that lonesome hill to sleep
In silence and in gloom.

Farewell old bridge again we say
Such is the will of fate,
The best of earth must pass away
And there's no time to wait.

This ad began appearing in the Silvertonian Appeal in February of 1910 and continued for several weeks. Talk about truth in advertising!

CLOSING OUT SALE

The Greatest Price Cutting Sale Ever Given in Silverton.

The complete stock of Furniture, Carpets, Matting, Wall Paper, Window Shades, Mattress, in fact everything in the store, including Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware and Cut Glass. The plain truth of the matter is, I want the money; and at the prices I will offer YOU should want the goods. If you could use them, it will pay you to borrow the money to buy at these prices. Do not fail to come early and get the choice of each line. This Sale is not to get rid of a lot of old junk; as every one in this community knows that there is no better stock of up-to-date, salable goods carried in the Willamette Valley than is shown in this store, and the opportunity of buying staple household goods at such prices comes only once in a long time.

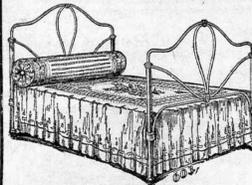
Opening Day of Sale SATURDAY, FEB'RY 19

And May Last Throughout the Month of March.

Just a Few Sample Prices.



DINING TABLE
 Opens to 6 ft., finished golden
 Regular \$5.50 now **\$4.25**
 A fine golden oak, 11, " **8.75**
 Extra value golden ash, regular 12 00 now **9.00**



IRON BEDS
 The greatest values are in this line, priced from \$2.50 up.
 A Brass Bed regular \$25.00 for **\$16.75**

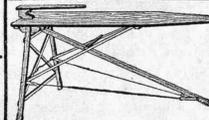
RUGS
 9x12 regular \$6.00 for **\$4.75**
 Same size 10.20 " **7.75**
 Axminster 9x12 regular \$27.50 " **19.75**
 Just a few at these prices.



Baby Go-Carts and Carriages.
 This stock is too long to describe.
 A \$3.00 value for **\$ 2.25**
 A dandy full folding \$15.00 " **11.00**
 Some special reed cart 10.00 " **7.25**
 One large buggy reg. 25.00 " **15.00**



OSTERMOOR MATTRESS
 Regular \$3.50 now **\$2.50**
 White cotton all over
 Regular \$6.00 " **4.75**
 Our greatest value floss
 Regular \$10.00 " **8.75**
 The heavy 15.00 " **12.75**
 The Nontufted 20 00 " **16.75**



These regular \$3.50 and \$4 00 Ironing Boards **\$2.35**
 ONLY A FEW

Library Tables Regular \$3.00 at **\$ 2.25**
 " 7.50 " **5.75**
 A great value, 4 inch solid oak legs " 18.50 " **14.90**

Will Take horses, cows, all kinds of chickens in trade at these special prices at a par valuation.

WRAY'S FURNITURE STORE

SILVERTON.

:-=

OREGON

This little story was posted on the front page of the Silverton Appeal, March 4, 1910, right alongside the report on the special meeting of the common council and an article on the latest hop growing issues. Graham & Welty was the local butcher establishment—I wonder if the calf thought he was going to get a reprieve.

Lively Runners

Graham & Welty's team indulged in a lively runaway Saturday forenoon, but no serious damage was done. Dick Sacher, accompanied by James Lusk, had been in the country after a veal calf which was loaded in the wagon.

Everything went lovely until they reached the foot of the east hill enroute home when the bridle came off from one of the horses. Dick handed the reins to young Lusk and jumped out of the vehicle to replace it, and as he landed on the ground by the side of the team they started to run. Lusk maintained his position in the seat and endeavored to subdue the frightened animals, but they pursued in their wild flight down Oak street to Water street. Turning the corner here they ran north to High street and as they made the last turn young Lusk was thrown out upon the ground with terrific force. He escaped without injury. The horses ran to First street, south to Oak street and back to Water street, turning south this time and stopped between Fischer's flouring mill and the office building. The calf maintained its position in the wagon box during the experience, and was none the worse for having such a swift time in the city. The horses were apparently glad to stop at the first opportunity.

Online Genealogy

Silver Falls Library – Thursday, March 11

7:00--9:00 p.m.

This month there will not be an SCHS member program, but you are encouraged to attend the Silver Falls Library and Silverton Genealogy Club, Ancestry Detectives, presentation of a program on Online Genealogy. The evening is designed to help you use the computer to find family members, past and present. If you miss this opportunity (or if you get this newsletter too late—sorry!), remember the Ancestry Detectives meet the second Tuesday of the month at Silver Falls Library, 10 am till noon. For more information contact Sarah, 503-873-2054.



Program Ideas Wanted!

We are asking the SCHS membership to send us their ideas for future program ideas. What interests you? What would you like to learn more about? What house or building or neighborhood would you like to explore? Call Chris at 503-873-4529 or the museum at 503-873-7070 or e-mail us at silverton.museum@live.com with your suggestions. Thank you!



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This color edition is for our on line members, please feel free to forward this email to your friends and relatives.



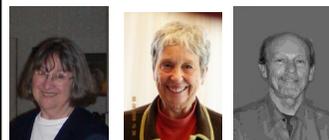
Thank you to our new and renewing members!!

Barbara Marquam	Rebecca Campbell	Donna Eberle
Larry and Molly Romine	Margo Drake Walker	Larry Thomas
The Chocolate Box	Joan Sprug	Chris Schwab
Evelyn Vesper Rose	Mini Storall	Carolyn Hutton
Ernie Hento	Marlene Hanson	Susan Beale
Jeff & Cindy Lampa		

And thank you for the following donations—

Margo Drake Walker in honor of her grandfather, June Drake
Barbara Marquam in memory of her parents, Ross and Marie Marquam

Carolyn Chris Larry



Your newsletter staff

Your S.C.H.S. Board

Ray Hunter	President
Larry Thomas	Past-Pres.
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Chris Schwab	Secretary
Rufus LaLone	Treasurer
Carolyn Hutton	Curator
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Molly Murphy	
Robin Anderson	
Marsha Worthen	
Rick Lewis	