

Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



For the past year we have been featuring stories from the 1910 Silverton appeal showing what life was like in Silverton 100 years ago. From the November 18, 1010 issue we find this article:

Davenport's Country Boy Famous New York Editor Renders Verdict In Favor of Homer's New Book.

The following article relative to Homer Davenport's recent production is from the pen of J.E. Chamberlain, the brilliant New York editor, and shows how the work is received by the best minds in America:

Homer Davenport's "The Country Boy" is simply a poem, and that is all there is about it. It is the story of Davenport's own early life out in Silverton, Ore., where the cartoonist was born and brought up.

Probably the most of it is true, but it could not be literally true, because Davenport is a born poet, and he could no more be prevented from poetizing than David could have been prevented from writing psalms instead of statistics, or Tennyson from penning lyrics rather than stock market reports.

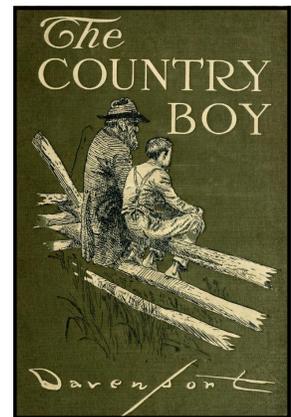
Davenport had a remarkable inheritance and a picturesque youthful environment. His father is a strong man and a philosopher, and the picture of his mother which Davenport gives us shows her a dreamer and a woman of energy as well as beauty of character.

With this inheritance, the youthful artist (for he began to draw at the age of two) was thrown into the midst of a lot of queer geniuses in a "new" Oregon village, which seems to have become as old as Methusaleh the moment it was born. A village of "characters" and eccentrics, where the prominent citizens whiled the happy, shiftless hours away pitching quoits in the middle of the street, and where there was probably more of the solid stuff of real human nature pre capita than in any other place in the world.

Also animal nature. The animals in Davenport's book ought to be immortal. Old John, the faithful horse, who had forgotten more than most college presidents know; Duff, the intellectual bulldog; the tame wild goose, who came back, and was tragically shot by the boy who loved him—all these creatures, and others are real, and loveable forever.

It's all good stuff and "The Country Boy" is a fine book.

J.E.C.



Ancestry Detectives

The Silverton Genealogy Group, Ancestry Detectives, has moved its meeting place from the Silverton Library: they are now meeting at the new Silverton Senior Center, 115 Westfield Street, Silverton, Oregon. Meeting time is still the 2nd Tuesday of every month (except December) from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Find out more about them at their website: <http://myyellowbasket.com/ancestrydetectives/>



Curator's Corner
November—2010

At the last Board meeting the Board approved the following items to be accessioned into the Silverton Country Historical Society's collection:

- Two photos that had been in the archives of the Silverton Library; one is a large family portrait of Timothy Davenport and his second wife and family posed with Homer, circa 1898. The second photo is labeled Alma Pearson Bramble. This is not a familiar name; does anyone recognize the name Pearson or Bramble?
- A small, framed, colored pencil drawing of a birch tree done by Lora Ames Allen. Mrs. Ames father was Sam Ames who owned Ames Hardware (in the Wolfe Bldg. for many years) and she married Reber Allen, son of an old Silverton pioneer family. This came from Dorothy Bloch Myrhum.
- A produce scale used in Burian's Market on East Hill was given to us from Ted Burian's son, Wayne. It had been used in the market at least since 1939.
- School books from the estate of Shirley Doerfler Duerst. They are stamped with the names of schools no longer in existence: McAlpin, Valley View and Silver Cliff. Floyd Fox wrote his name in one of the books. These were donated by Shirley's family.



A hard decision will have to be made regarding the donation of another item that came in last month, simply because we do not have the space to store it or display it. The gentleman who dropped it off said his mother lived in Silverton and collected 'antiques'. The item is a really wonderful old washing machine and if we had room, it would be a great thing to have in the collection. However, the phone number left by the donor is wrong and there's no way of reaching him to find out the history of the washing machine. Our by-laws state that a donation must have a connection to Silverton's history, not just be a part of someone's collection. We could use six more rooms.

There were two more tours in October: Butte Creek 3rd graders came for a visit and we had Boy Scout Troop 159 tour the museum on the same day. Thanks to Chris Schwab, Linda McKay and Kathy Hunter for doing the school tour. I took the Boy Scouts through and was really impressed with how many of them read a lot of the signs and asked a lot of questions. They were pleased to see the gazebo that serves to protect the old oak tree stump and that Troop 159 had helped build it for the Historical Society.

Friday, Nov. 5 several of us joined Larry to work on the passageway. **Thanks to Nellie Graves, Norman English and Glen Cunningham** for helping to wash walls, putty nail holes, caulk seams and hang sheet rock. We got a lot done in just a couple of hours. Thanks again.

Volunteers and hosts, remember we will be closing November 15th. On **Tuesday, Nov. 23**, I'd like to have a work group come in and pack up the school room; at least all visible standing displays. The glass cases and desks will be moved to the center of the room and covered with plastic while we prepare the room for a fresh paint job. (You can tell I'm not fixing Thanksgiving dinner, huh?). This should only take a few hours if you have some extra time. We should have another work day on **Tuesday, Nov. 30**. Hopefully, the passageway will be ready to either paint or move into. There's going to be a lot of things to get done before re-opening in February 2011. Your help will be much appreciated.

The request for old sheets has been filled thanks to Dolores Blust and Robin Anderson. Thanks to Patty Lindquist also for cutting up and hemming the duvet cover.

Carolyn Hutton

New Storm Windows for the Museum



In October we began hanging the new storm windows in an effort to reduce some of our heating costs. Windows have been placed inside the Doctor's room and exterior windows will be hung on the south side of the Museum. Here are Carolyn, Larry and Gary Ohren risking life and limb for our gas bill!



Open House Held October 23rd!

The rain held off on Saturday, October 23rd, as we prepared to show off the work that has been done so far on the new access way from the Museum to the Depot. We had a lovely spread of doughnuts and hot cider in the construction area, so the aroma of cinnamon and apples greeted people as they entered the Museum. In our excitement to welcome the visitors, no one remembered to take pictures, so I can only tell you of the nice response we got from over 20 guests, many of whom had never been to the Museum before. We even gained a new member, Georgia Ireland, a new Silverton resident, who was visiting the Museum for the first time. We had lots of fun meeting people and proudly ushering them through to the Depot. If you were unable to join us on Saturday, please feel free to come visit another time. We are usually there on Tuesdays, but call ahead (503-873-7070) first, just to make sure. See you then. And don't forget, we always need volunteers to help as we take care of the finishing details.

Chris Schwab

(Found in the Museum after the Open House: one chain style bracelet. If you think it is yours, please call 503-873-7070 and identify.)

Mayor's Charity Ball Saturday, October 23rd

I attended the Mayor's 2nd Annual Costume Charity Ball Saturday evening to participate in the 50-50 raffle that allowed non-profits a chance to earn some money for their coffers. We sold tickets for \$2 each and there was lots of interest in our display. The winner of 50% of our sales was Penny Sloper: Congratulations, Penny, and thank you for your support!

Chris Schwab



What I won't do for the Museum!

Whatzit Meeting – Monday, November 15th 7:00 p.m. at the Museum



Please join us as we host our last program for the year and take this opportunity to stump your fellow members at our annual “Whatzit” meeting. Bring that special treasure or doodad or thingamajig and we’ll tell you what it’s for. Or maybe not! And maybe we will stump you, too.

The following is from a sweet little book called “Telling Tommy About Days We Celebrate,” by Paul Pim, published by Cupples and Leon Company, 1941. It belonged to Barbara Marquam, daughter of Ross and Marie Marquam.

Telling Tommy About Thanksgiving Day... *It Made the Turkey a Popular Bird*

“When was the first Thanksgiving held in America, Daddy?”

“The Pilgrim fathers celebrated the first Thanksgiving in America in October 1621, Tommy. Of all the holidays observed in the United States, none is so distinctively American as Thanksgiving. And the main event of the day, the Thanksgiving dinner, can be all-American too, for much of what we eat today is what the Indians taught our Pilgrim Fathers to raise three hundred years ago.

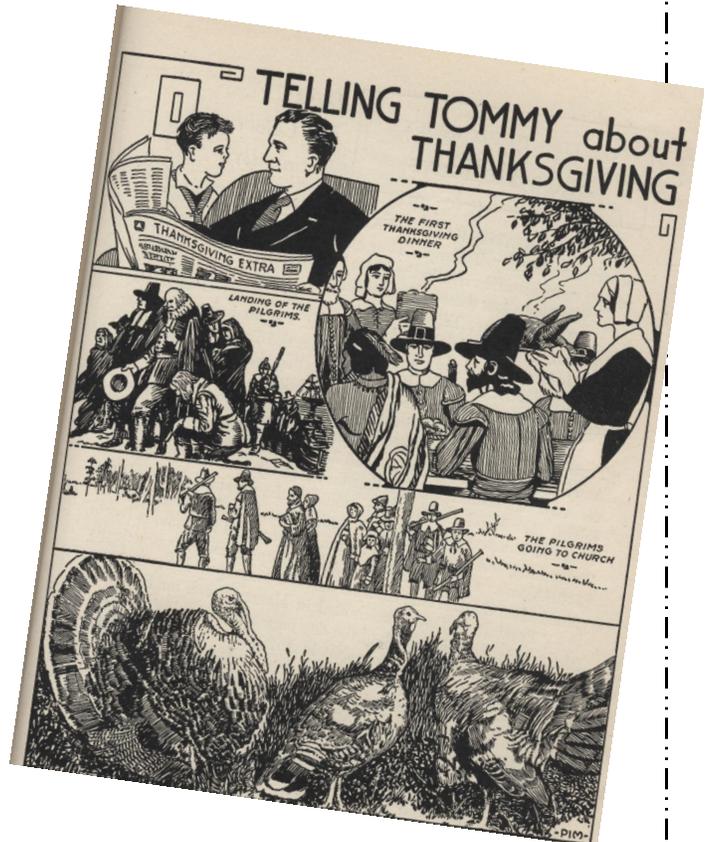
Here is an All-American menu for Thanksgiving: Tomato soup, turkey, potatoes, squash, succotash, cranberries, corn bread, pineapple salad, tapioca pudding, pumpkin pie and chocolate.

From Plymouth the custom of celebrating a Thanksgiving Day spread to other colonies. After a time the governor of each colony issued such a proclamation annually. During the Revolution eight special Thanksgivings were observed. President Washington issued a general Thanksgiving Day proclamation in 1789. After that some states

observed an annual Thanksgiving, others did not, and no proclamation was issued by the President.

Mrs. Sarah Josepha Hale, editor of *Godey’s Lady’s Book*, won the title of the ‘Mother of Thanksgiving’ by her efforts to make it an annual holiday. For twenty years she wrote letters to each of the Presidents and sent out pleas through her magazine for an annual Thanksgiving. Her efforts were rewarded in 1863 when President Lincoln appointed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day.

From 1863 the same day was regularly set apart until in 1939 President Franklin D. Roosevelt proclaimed the second from the last Thursday in November as Thanksgiving Day.”



Thank You!!

Thank you to those of you who returned a completed “Yes! I Can Help!!” form. We **truly** appreciate your support. However, we would like to see a lot more of these forms in our “In” basket, so we are sending another batch out again with this month’s newsletter. Please consider how you can help keep our Museum a viable and active presence in the community. I can guarantee a lot of fun in the process!

Curator Search

And remember — we are still actively searching for a new curator to oversee the Museum’s collection and accession processes. We have several members who have come forward with a willingness to help in the various projects involved, but we still need a presence to coordinate and keep us all on task. You’re out there, I know you are. Come visit us to learn what’s involved and let us answer your questions. Give a call at (503)873-7070 or e-mail us at Silverton.museum@live.com. Join us!

Exciting Find!

This past year the newsletter has focused on the Silverton of 100 years ago by sharing stories from the Silverton Appeal from the year 1910. In the June issue of our newsletter, we told about the booklet called “Silverton in 1910” and displayed a page on the downtown area. The entire booklet can now be found on-line at:

http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu/xmlui/bitstream/handle/1957/10380/Sil_1910.pdf?sequence=1

Or – if you are not receiving the newsletter by e-mail and that is too much to type (!) just go to <http://ir.library.oregonstate.edu> and enter Silverton in the “Search for” field in the Scholars/Archive database (the default database) and there will be a link to “Silverton, Oregon: the heart of the Willamette Valley.” The title page is displayed in full color and the entire contents is available for viewing. It is fantastic. If you need help retrieving it, just give me a call: Chris, 503-873-4529.

Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 15, 2011 – Oak Street Church

1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

We are in the process of planning this year’s annual meeting and hope we will see you there. Remember, this is the time we report back to our membership on the state of the Society and report on the projects and events that have made up the past year. Please join us for the chance to learn more about SCHS and to visit with your fellow members. Call us if you have questions: (503)873-7070.



Members at a prior year’s annual meeting

**Remember—Museum Work Days—Tues. Nov. 23rd and Tuesday, Nov. 30th
Call (503)873-7070 if you have questions.**



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Postcard from "Aunt A" to Cassie Blackerby,
 Silverton, Oregon, November 16, 1907

Thank you to our new
 and renewing members!!

Emerald Peterson
 Tom and Marsha Worthen
 Victoria Delaney
 Andy and Lou Nelson
 Nancy H. Rose
 Homer Davenport Days
 Georgia Ireland

And thank you for the
 following donation—

Mel Dean

Get Well Soon,
 Tom Worthen!

Carolyn Chris Larry



Your newsletter staff

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Vacant	

**If you received an overdue
 notice with your newsletter,
 we appreciate your prompt
 response. Thank you!**