

# Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



Since 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Oregon granting women the right to vote, we have decided to dedicate this year's newsletters to some of the noted women throughout Silverton's history. This month our feature story is on Zetta White Schlador, Silverton's first, and so far, only, woman mayor.

## Zetta White Schlador Silverton's Lady Mayor

This remarkable lady was born March 7, 1888 to John and Mary White on a farm located on their Donation Land Claim near Monitor. She was one of eight children and her early years were spent in Monitor and Weston, Oregon. In 1910, she married Cal Schlador, and moved to Silverton to finish high school with the class of 1916, the first class, by the way, to graduate from the "new" high school which was at that time located across from the current Eugene Field School at the site of the current First Christian Church.

In 1925, she opened up a dress shop, the Woman's Specialty Shop, next to the old First National Bank on East Main Street. In 1938 she ran for mayor and took the oath of office in January 1939, replacing W.H. Moffett. The January 6, 1939 Silverton Appeal Tribune proclaimed in 2-inch high letters: "**MAYORESS TAKES OFFICE JAN. 9,**" and called her a "forward looking Silverton woman." She ran unopposed on the democratic ticket but was also assured election due to a heavy write-in vote on republican ballots. Apparently Mrs. Schlador, who had been serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce prior to the election, was quoted as saying, "Why not a woman mayor?" She then added, "but the woman must be diplomatic. Cooperate with the men; do not compete." Her husband, Cal, commented on her intent to run: "I think it's a bit crazy." She served as mayor for two one-year terms.

She appears to have been fairly progressive as she was instrumental in several community projects, including providing lights for the Silverton Airport, completing the sewage disposal plant, extending and

improving the sewage system and overseeing completion of a new community swimming pool.

Another major project was changing downtown parking to get rid of traffic jams during peak traffic times. She also was instrumental in bicycle law changes and strongly advocated for uniforms for city policemen. In fact, one news story reported that Mrs. Schlador "won a clash with the city council, composed of men" who felt the police did not need uniforms. She responded it was not a question of what the police wanted to wear, but of "what she wished them to wear." A total of \$120 was appropriated for uniforms in the 1940 city budget after some "snorting and shying around."

In January 3, 1941, as Mrs. Schlador ended her two terms as mayor, the Silverton Appeal wrote, "she brought to her administration a steadfastness of duty which served well in the face of many crucial problems in the city's history. She was one of the very few women municipal executives in the U.S. and as such brought considerable notice to Silverton.

Zetta died in 1978 at the age of ninety.



*Chris Schwab and Shelly Vandehey*

**Member Program—Thursday, April 21— 7 p.m**  
**Silverton Museum, 428 S. Water Street**  
**(Note the departure from our usual third Monday Schedule)**

Join us for an evening with Carolyn Simmons who will share with us some of her experiences working in the office of Silver Falls Timber Company in the 1940's. Please bring your questions about what it was like working for one of Silverton's largest employers at a time when logging and lumber mills were booming local industries. We also hope you will share your anecdotes and remembrances from those times. Our photo collection of Silverton area logging and the local mills will be available as well.



*Chris Schwab*

**March Member Program**  
**March 23, 2011**

**Christopher Wicks—A History of the Pipe Organ in Silverton**

SCHS members and guests had the opportunity to learn the history of pipe organs in Silverton from our own Christopher Wicks, who has himself performed on what is Silverton's first pipe organ, still being played at Trinity Lutheran Church. This organ was installed at Trinity in 1921, but is most likely even older than that, as it was purchased from a church in Portland. Other pipe organs in the area have been located at Immanuel Lutheran church, St. Paul's Catholic Church and the First Christian Church. A small practice pipe organ was also loaned to St. Edward's Episcopal Church at one time.

Christopher currently plays the organ for 11 a.m. Sunday morning services at the First Christian Church in Salem at 685 Marion Street NE., as well as for the 7 p.m. Wednesday meetings at the Christian Science Church at 935 High Street SE, Salem.

Future performances include a German song recital at 3 p.m. on Sunday, May 22 at the home of Stefan and Edith Minde at 1640 Holly Street SE in Portland. For reservations, call Edith Minde at (503) 231-1421. This is a benefit for the Sinfonia Concertante Orchestra. His next organ recital will be at 3 p.m. on Sunday, June 12 at the Christian Science Church in Salem, with several vocal and instrumental collaborators, and an emphasis on music of his own composition. Coming up in October will be two performances of Christopher's own composition, a monodrama about St. Therese of Lisieux, with Christopher at the organ, Alison Seeber as soprano, Marta Stovin as reader, and Jon Fronza playing his trumpet. The first will be at St. Paul's Catholic Church at 1410 Pine Street in Silverton at 7 p.m. on Saturday, October 1; and then at All Saints' Catholic Church at 3847 NE Glisan Street in Portland at 3 p.m. on Sunday, October 9.



## Dime Toss Booth at Strawberry Festival!!

The Historical Society will again be running the ever-popular Dime Toss concession at the Strawberry Festival and Homer Davenport Days this summer, so that means we're looking for donations of containers. We need everybody's help in order to be ready for the Strawberry Festival on Father's Day in June, so hurry, hurry, start cleaning out cupboards, basements and garages and combing garage sales looking for items you can donate. We'll need all sorts of containers that a dime will land in—glasses, vases, coffee or tea cups, ceramic bowls, even punch bowls.

You can drop off your donations at the museum on most Tuesday mornings or on Saturdays and Sundays when we're open. You can also drop off items at my home, 211 Welch St., Silverton, down the hill from the hospital. (Leave it on our porch if no one answers your knock.)



Thank you all in advance for your generosity and support—

*Kathy Hunter*

### Silverton Genealogy “Passport” Conference Saturday, April 30, 2011—9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The Silverton LDS Church, 745 W. Main Street, Silverton

**Sponsored by Ancestry Detectives and the Silverton Family History Center**

Keynote speaker will be Hal Hovorka, area Genealogy Representative for  
The Family History Center.

Cost: \$5.00 for Conference (Additional \$5.00 for Subway Lunch Box)  
Pre-Registration Advised



Classes will be offered on topics such as how to use Ancestry.com and Blurb.com; photo restoration and preservation; how to use vital records, land records and census records; and many more that should help you with your family searches.

For more information go to <http://www.myyellowbasket.com/ancestrydetectives/>

## Work Goes On!!

We are still working on last minute touches in the depot. Here is Robin Anderson gathering vintage tools and hardware for our new display wall. Robin is one of our dedicated group of volunteers who have been coming in weekly to help with last minute details. Thank you to her and to Norm English, Carolyn Hutton and Chris Schwab.



## Hats! Hats! Hats! New Display at the Museum! Fashionable Hats Through the Years

We are very excited to announce a new display in the major exhibit area in the Museum's living room. Just in time for Easter and Mother's Day, we have gathered as many of the Museum's collection of vintage hats that we could find, and, quashing the temptation to try them all on.....well, kind of.....we have arranged them for the viewing pleasure of hat lovers everywhere!



I have to admit, it is somewhat daunting to put together a project like this without the practiced eye of a discerning curator. Carolyn was able to help us by taking the old display down, but her retirement is keeping her busy and she had to beg off the actual "hatting-up" process.

I had no idea how involved this all is....you don't just grab a bunch of stuff and plop it in the display case any which way. No, sir or ma'am. First you have to get an idea of what you want to do, as in "hats," then you have to find the hats (Carolyn and her predecessors are better than squirrels when it comes to finding nooks and crannies to carefully stash the Museum's collection. Houses built in 1910 are NOT known for their capacious closets!) Then you have to gather the accession cards so you have an idea from whom and from where the objects came, and maybe, if you're lucky, a little history. Unfortunately, probably a third of the hats had no identifying numbers at all, and, as for history, the information provided to the museum was as basic as: "Hat" to (eureka!) the name of the wearer and the age of the hat! I have to admit, though, the latter was a pretty rare occurrence.



This did not impede the fun, however. Robin Anderson and I spent about four hours one Tuesday gathering hats and compiling information. We also carefully photographed each item, making sure they were properly tagged, and oohing and aahing like crazy women. I guess the only comparison to what men might experience is looking over a bunch of antique fly fishing equipment. Then, the next Tuesday, Shelly Vandehey and I took a collective breath and spent another four hours trying to arrange them so they looked, at least to some degree, inviting. We probably put some hats in and took them out half a dozen times! But WE like the end product.....and hope you will, too!



Come see it and remember the days when you, or your mothers, would not go to church or shopping or to visit the big city without wearing the proper chapeau! We've got 'em all!



*Chris Schwab*

## Attention Members!! Volunteer Opportunities Galore!!

We still need volunteer hosts for the **3rd Saturday** and also the occasional **5th Sunday**. Please call the Museum at 503-873-7070 if you can spare just 3 hours once a month. And of course, we still have the curator position open! We need you!

We also need volunteers to help put the finishing touches on the newly added access way connecting the museum and the railway depot next door. If you can nail, paint or stain, Larry Thomas welcomes your help on the next several Thursdays. Work will usually start at 10 am, but call Larry first to see if there is any change in plans: 503-551-7323. This is a great chance to play a tangible role in historic preservation!

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### New Flag at the Museum

A big thank you to the City of Silverton for using their equipment to remove our sadly torn and twisted flag from its pole and thank you to new member Rudy Castillo for the donation of a new flag, that now proudly waves above our Observation Post.




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### June Drake Center Opens

First Friday, April 1, was the opening of the June Drake Center, located at the old Weiby's Building at the corner of First and Main Streets. The project publicizes the important role local photographer, June Drake, had in creating Silver Falls State Park and chronicling the businesses, events and people of Silverton. In addition, the June Drake Center will be a gallery/workshop space for photography featuring photographers that are local, regional and beyond. Be sure to check it out.

## Silverton Area Featured

### Oregon Historical Quarterly Published by The Oregon Historical Society

This quarterly publication of the Oregon Historical Society has featured our area in two of its recent issues. First, Summer of 2010 included a story titled, Connecting Oregon: The Slow Road to Rapid Communications 1843-2009, by Frank Dillow. His story focuses on how the development of communication services in Oregon shaped the state's future, and particularly highlights Silverton's Matt Brown. The Quarterly's most recent issue, Spring, 2011, includes Silver Falls State Park and the Early Environmental Movement, by Zeb Larson. "Through restoring landscapes damaged by fire and logging, creating structures that blend with the landscape, and building youth camps, the park's designers and managers drew on beliefs from both environmental ideologies as well as the aesthetics of the Arts and Crafts movement. Today Silver Falls is the largest state park in Oregon." (OHQ, Spring 2011, 112:1)

We have copies of both issues at the Museum if you would like to read the complete stories. You can also receive print versions or on-line copies of the OHQ for \$44 per month or **free** with your membership to the Oregon Historical Society. For more information about subscribing to the Oregon Historical Quarterly or becoming a member of the Oregon Historical Society, go to <http://www.ohs.org/>

Thank you to Robin Anderson for the new plantings in our porch flower box! At least it feels like Spring is on the way!



Upcoming Events—

June—Walking tour of downtown Silverton

July—Arcadia Publications: Silverton, Compiled by Gus Frederick

August 5,6,7—Homer Davenport Community Days.



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Easter postcard sent to Mrs. Henry Dick in 1911 from "Aunt Emma"

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Thank you to our new and renewing members!

The Gordon House	Trish and Craig Jensen	Marilyn Frick
Pat Gamaehlich	Norma Halseth	Larry Thomas
Ernie Hento	Dorothy Ramig	Joan Sprug
Pete Tolmasoff and Family	Ray and Kathy Hunter	Donna and Bob Eberle
Larsen & Flynn Insurance	Ed and Karen McKenzie (Natural Health Center)	

**A special thank you to Carol's Bookkeeping and Tax Service**

And thank you to these generous donors!!

Linda Ann Grodrian Williams (correction)	Barbara Marquam
Rufus and Kay LaLone	

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

**Thank you!**