

Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



The year 2012 marks the 100th anniversary of Oregon granting women the right to vote, so we have decided to dedicate this year's newsletters to some of the noted women throughout Silverton's history. Another educator, Hannah Olson, is the focus of this month's issue.

Hannah Olson

If you've ever visited the Museum you have probably noticed several jars of marbles on display in the school room...and I am sure you have heard of a tie-in with a local teacher. Well, the teacher was Hannah Olson, a remarkable woman who taught full time, mostly in Silverton schools, for a total of 55 years until her retirement in 1957. Hannah was definitely a much loved person in the community.

Hannah Martine Olson was born on July 4, 1890 in Thor, Iowa, and, as many young women did in those days, she became a teacher, working in Iowa and then Coos Bay, Oregon for 10 years before coming to live in Silverton with her parents in 1919. Their family home was at 218 Mill street, second house in from Oak on the right side, where she lived until 1980 when poor health forced her to move to Mount Angel Towers.

Hannah first taught seventh and eighth grades in the old Emerson school on the corner of First and Park Streets. When Eugene Field School was built, she moved into the new school to teach second grade and later serve as the school Librarian. As I said, she retired in 1957, but continued to substitute until 1964 when she retired again, at age 74.

Family was very important to Hannah and her sister Ida, who shared the Mill Street home after their parents died. Each year they would welcome their 15 nieces and nephews to spend a magical week of picnics, fishing trips, boat rides, visits to a farm, the Capitol, the Governor, swimming, hiking, picking

fruits and vegetables, singing, cooking--activities that were chronicled in Hannah's 1975 booklet called, "Cousins' Week." At the end of the week, capped by a party and photos, the cousins would return to their homes to look forward to next year.

As Hannah wrote in "Cousins' Week"..... "After the last car was gone, the big house became quiet. No feet pattering around--no shouting back and forth--no doors slamming. Two tired aunts found each a cozy chair, sat down to rest and reminisce over the past week. Quiet reigned supreme."

Hannah lived a full life of work, travel, family and involvement in community and church. At Immanuel

Lutheran Church, she was Sunday School Superintendent for many years. In the mid 1940's, she started a Silverton branch of the Business and Professional Women, serving as president of the club from 1946-48 and again in 1959-60. At her instigation the club began giving scholarships, \$25 in the beginning, and they continue to this day. They sponsored a booth at Oktoberfest to raise money for their scholarship fund.

Silverton's Centennial celebration saw Hannah take an active part. She was involved with the pageant and located many of the costumes.



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Homer Davenport Community Festival

August 5, 6, 7, 2011

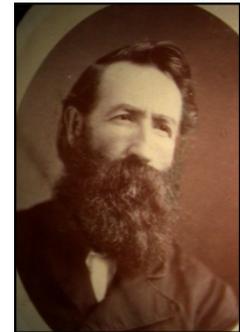


The 2011 Homer Davenport Community Festival will be held **August 5, 6 and 7**, the first full weekend in August. Come join us as we celebrate the life and work of Homer C. Davenport, Silverton's favorite son and 19th century Hearst Political Cartoonist. For more information, visit the Homer Page at:

<http://HomerDavenport.com>

As we mentioned in last month's issue, a focus of this year's community event will be on Homer's father, Timothy W. Davenport, a remarkable person in his own right. And the Homer Davenport Community Festival has announced that Grand Marshalls for the 2011 Homer Parade will be **Nancy**

Rose, who is Homer's niece and T.W.'s granddaughter. Her son, **Dr. Timothy Rose**, PhD., T.W.'s great-grandson and name-sake, will accompany her. Dr. Tim's son Maxwell and his family will join them, making a total of four generations of Davenport descendants in attendance.



Coming July 25!

Arcadia Publishing's Latest in the "Images of America" Series

Silverton, Oregon

By Gus Frederick

Since 1993, Arcadia Publishing has produced hundreds of books that chronicle the unique stories of America's towns and cities. These books are enriched by insightful narrative and more than two hundred historic images in each publication. The Silverton Country Historical Society worked with Gus Frederick, Silverton historian and filmmaker, on his intensive research behind "Silverton." Gus was able to indulge in his fascination with local history and called on his background as a photographer and graphic artist to compile this publication. Arcadia says on its web page, "Silverton has been blessed over the years with many photographers—both professional and amateur—as well as an active local historical society that has worked to preserve these images and the history behind them." (www.arcadiapublishing.com) We look forward to this publication and are very proud of Gus and all the work he has put into it. We hope to host a book signing and "launch" party in July. You can always contact Gus at gus@2020oregon.net or the museum at www.silverton.museum@live.com for more information.



Dime Toss Booth at Strawberry Festival!!

Sunday—June 19th



Spend your Father's Day with us. Have a blast at
SCHS' Dime Toss booth!

Festival hours 11:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m.

Strawberries, biscuit and ice cream

\$5.00



Hannah Olson—continued from page 1

She also was a member of the Senior Women's Club, the Silverton Chamber of Commerce, and Delta Kappa Gamma.

For years Hannah campaigned for a Silverton Historical Society. In 1974, her letter to the editor (see below) was instrumental in finally getting one started. She, along with Fritz Dahl and Allan Gribble and several others, worked hard to locate the museum in the old Ames home and she was instrumental in outfitting one room as a model classroom in honor of the Silverton area retired teachers.

Her inquiring mind and love of travel led her all over the world, seeing most of the European countries as well as much of Asia and South America. In June, 1980, a special Sunday was proclaimed "Hannah Olson Day" by Silverton Mayor John Middlemiss, in honor of the time and effort she had spent in the betterment of the community. A reception with cake and punch was held at the museum so her friends and neighbors could wish her well.

Oh. And about those marbles. In her early days of teaching, young boys delighted in shooting marbles at recess....but if any of them played with marbles during class time or if any marbles fell out of pockets to the floor, they became Miss Olson's!

Interestingly enough, most of the information for this story came from a document written by last month's featured lady, Millie Thayer...

Chris Schwab

May 30, 1974 Silverton Appeal-Tribune Page 2

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Silverton Needs A Museum

To the Editor,
For all its progress in many areas, Silverton has fallen behind in a very important field. In a few months we'll celebrate the 120th birthday of our town. Many changes have taken place during these years. Early settlers who blazed the way for others to follow are gone, leaving many traditions and artifacts for us. Many of the items left by these early settlers have been lost to the community because there was no suitable place where they could be preserved and appreciated. Some of these antiques were given to museums in other cities. However, there are still many antiques to be found in this area. Our town needs a museum.

A place where these precious things can be kept for all to see and enjoy. Silverton Senior Woman's Club, one of the oldest clubs in the community has long been interested in a museum for this area. It may take some time before something like this can be realized but if all of us start thinking and talking about a "MUSEUM FOR SILVERTON", we'll have one before too long. While we are thinking and talking let's preserve what we have, as plans are taking place. SILVERTON NEEDS A MUSEUM.

Sincerely,
Hannah M. Olson
One of the past presidents of the Woman's Club

GeerCrest Events

GeerCrest Farm and Historical Society will be hosting a joint Geer and Davenport family reunion on Friday August 5, the first day of this years' Homer Davenport Community Festival.

Additionally, during the Saturday and Sunday of the Festival, GeerCrest will play host to a number of activities including farm tours, readings from the works of Homer and his father, T.W. Davenport and fun farm stuff for kids to do. More details will be available on the GeerCrest Website at:

<http://GeerCrest.org/>



Hannah Olson's letter to the editor in support of a museum for Silverton

Make a day of it! Two fun events for history lovers in Silverton on Saturday, June 18 !

June Member Program Saturday, June 18th—2:00 p.m. Downtown Walking Tour

Come join us for a walking tour of the downtown area on the third Saturday in June. We will tour rain or shine, so if it looks like it could rain (in June??) just grab an umbrella. We will meet at the Museum—it will be open for an hour before hand so come early and take a look at our displays and the progress on the depot and the new access way.



The Gordon House Celebrates Frank Lloyd Wright's 144th Birthday Saturday, June 18, 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Happy Birthday Mr. Wright! Plan to visit the Gordon House to celebrate and commemorate Wright's 144th birthday month. You're invited to tour and enjoy his only building in Oregon, an example of what Wright would later call the only truly American architectural style. Open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Birthday entry fee for the house is \$2 per person or free for members. Birthday cupcakes and drinks will be served in the "workspace". Take a walk around the house through the upland oak savannah restoration project. You can enjoy an exciting view of the house from every direction surrounded by a developing native landscape. Contemplate the mastery of passive energy design exemplified by the Master Architect.

Molly Murphy, Gordon House General Director

E-mail: gordonhouse1957@verizon.net

Phone: 503/874-6006

Website : www.thegordonhouse.org



Coming Events—

- June 18—Downtown Walking tour, 2 p.m. — Meet at the Museum
- June 19—Strawberry Festival, Coolidge-McClaine Park
- July 25—Silverton, by Gus Frederick, Arcadia Publishing.
- August 5,6,7—Homer Davenport Community Festival
- August 5 — GeerCrest Reunion
- August 19 and 20—Friends of the Library Book Sale
- Also coming soon—Grand Re-Opening of the Depot!

Volunteers still needed!!

How you can get more out of your SCHS membership...

1. Renew! And get a friend to join.
2. Volunteer once a month for a 3-hour shift as a host. Three hours—that's it!
3. Serve on the board,,new officers will be needed in January, 2012.
4. Be available for special projects.
5. Help us find a curator!

Call Chris at 503-873-4529 for more information. Thank you!!



Friends of Silver Falls Library Book Sale

The Friends of Silver Falls Library will be holding their annual book sale, Friday, August 19, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Saturday, August 20 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Silverton Library, 410 South Water Street. There will be two rooms of excellent deals from trade fiction to children's books to textbooks, to non-fiction works in every category. Don't miss it!



Thank You

Thank you to Judy DeSantis at **Silverton Art and Frame**, for helping us take a closer look at a very large cartoon (34" by 47") done by Knute Diger-ness in 1929. The cartoon is showing some evidence of damage on one side and she helped us take it out of its frame to see if we could do some acid free backing to deter the process. Unfortunately we discovered that it had been drawn directly on to the back of a Golden West Coffee poster from the 1920's! The cartoon (and its special backing) will soon be on display in our Depot.



2011 School Tours!

Again this year the museum was host to students from area schools...over 160 first, second and third graders, plus 30 adult chaperones, from Eugene Field and Silver Crest Schools came to learn about Polly Crandall Coon, Homer Davenport and life long ago. Absolutely, as volunteers, one of our favorite things to do!

Thanks to volunteers Carolyn Hutton, Kathy Hunter, Linda McKay, Norm English, Dolores Blust, Ruth Kaser and tour trainees Robin Anderson and Kay LaLone. Couldn't do it without you!



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Postcard sent in 1909

Thank you to our new and
renewing members!

Daniel Froehlich
Linda McKay
Craig and Joan Clark
Rebecca Campbell
Brad and Arlene Brenden
Silverton Art and Frame
Gus Frederick
G. Victor Madge

And thank you to these generous
donors!!

Ian Johnson
Phyllis Haberly Burson

Your S.C.H.S. Board

Ray Hunter	President
Larry Thomas	Past-Pres.
Norm English	Vice- Pres.
Chris Schwab	Secretary
Rufus LaLone	Treasurer
Vacant	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Molly Murphy	
Robin Anderson	
Marsha Worthen	
Kay LaLone	

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

Thank you!