

# 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. For this issue we are featuring Flora Hoblitt, writer and co-owner and editor of the *Silverton Appeal-Tribune*.

## Flora F. Hoblitt

One of the best selling publications in our stock of items for sale is a modest little 45-page booklet titled, "When Silverton Was Young." The booklet is a collection of twenty-one weekly columns written by Flora Hoblitt from March 19, 1954 to August 6, 1954 for the *Silverton Appeal-Tribune* during Silverton's Centennial celebration. The articles were collected and printed as a collection by the Historical Society in 1984, thanks to the efforts of Esther Burnham Langton. The articles cover such topics as "Silverton in 1854," "Churches in the Silverton Country," "Families in the Silverton Country" and "Silverton from 1909 to 1954." Each story is a little time capsule of life in early Silverton.

Flora Frances Hoblitt was born in 1877 in rural Wisconsin. Her early education was in Minnesota, but she graduated from Oberlin College in Ohio, one of the first institutions to confer degrees on women. Flora excelled in languages and the classics, disciplines that would serve her well in her later years. She began her teaching career in Little Falls, Minnesota and it was there in 1902, that she married John Hoblitt, the operator of a weekly newspaper.

In 1909 they settled in Silverton, where John shortly began working for the *Silvertonian Appeal*. In 1914, John Hoblitt purchased the paper and re-named it *The Silverton Appeal* and it wasn't long before Mrs. Hoblitt began working with him in the news and editorial departments and as bookkeeper. In 1930, with the purchase of *The Tribune*, the paper became the *Silverton Appeal-Tribune*.

Mrs. Hoblitt was the consummate Silvertonian—besides raising three sons, she taught bible classes at the First

Christian Church for 20 years, was a charter member and early president of the Silverton Parent Teacher Association and devoted much of her time to local civic and cultural projects.

Following the death of her husband in 1946, she became co-editor with her son Mahlon Hoblitt, writing special articles and editorials including a column, "Something to Think About." Mrs. Hoblitt, it is said, "was always known for fairness, courage and accuracy in her work" and her fascination with Silverton's early years is exhibited in the well-researched historical contributions for the Centennial.

In October of 1957 the paper celebrated her 80th birthday and her 43 years in the newspaper publishing business, calling her "Dean of Valley Newspaper Women."



It was noted that she "is an energetic worker and walks 7 blocks to and from work twice a day, rain or shine. She has seldom missed a day's work in all the years that she has been on the paper. She deems it a blessing to have an absorbing job to do. She has no plans to retire."

Mrs. Hoblitt continued her involvement in the circulation side of the paper until her death the next year, on November 3, 1958 at the age of 81.

**Copies of *When Silverton Was Young* are on sale at the Museum for \$5.00.**

*Chris Schwab and Shelly Vandehey*

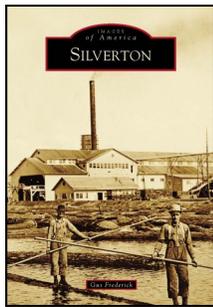
## Historic Properties Owners Open House Sponsored by the City of Silverton

**Silverton loves its historic homes.....**In March of 2011, a consultant for the City of Silverton identified 272 homes that are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The list of eligible properties can be found on the **Historic Landmarks Commission page** of the City's website at [www.silverton.or.us](http://www.silverton.or.us).



The Home of June Drake

On October 18<sup>th</sup>, the City of Silverton is inviting these historic homeowners to an open house to discuss the potential benefits and obligations of including their homes on the National Register. At the meeting, property owners will be able to indicate if they have an interest in listing their homes using grant funds that have been allocated to the City. Following this meeting, the Silverton's Historic Landmarks Commission will meet on November 15<sup>th</sup> to prioritize the listing of historic properties owned by citizens who have indicated interest in placing them on the National Register. It is anticipated that over the next several years, 3-5 homes can be listed annually on the National Register using funds provided by the State Historic Preservation Office.



Images of America  
Silverton  
By Gus Frederick

Copies available at the Museum.

Get your copy of this  
definitive work on our hometown—  
Silverton

### Oregon State Archives—Open House, October 8, 2011 800 Summer Street, Salem Oregon

The Oregon State Archives will hold an open house from **10 a.m. - 3 p.m., Oct. 8** as part of the celebration of Oregon Archives month. Visitors will have the opportunity to tour the building and go “behind the scenes” to see the records storage area, learn more about the Archives and its holdings, guided by an Archives staff member. Tours will last about thirty minutes and include the opportunity to see some of Oregon's most significant historical documents, including the original Oregon Constitution. In addition, visitors will have an opportunity to conduct research, as additional staff will also be available to assist them and make records available to them to use. The lobby gallery, which currently features a collection of scenic photographs from around the state, will be open and a video shown, which celebrates 100 years of the Oregon Blue Book. Published by the Archives Division, the 2011-2012 edition and a facsimile edition of the 1911 Blue Book will be available for purchase at the event. The Oregon State Archives is located at 800 Summer Street NE, Salem.

**Second Annual Oregon Archives Crawl  
Portland, Oregon  
Saturday, October 15, 2011  
10:00 AM to 3:00 PM  
Free and Open to the Public**

Ready to crawl through history again (or for the first time)? Everyone is invited to the 2nd Annual Archives Crawl in Portland on Saturday, October 15th. Begin your experience at any of the four host locations (**Portland Archives and Records Center, the Portland State University Millar Library, Multnomah County Central Library or the Oregon Historical Society.**) As you crawl from site to site, make sure you get your free “passport” stamped at each location. A fully stamped passport gets you into a drawing for items donated by participating archives.

Some of this years participating organizations include Oregon Health and Sciences University, the Genealogical Forum of Oregon Library and the Multnomah County Records Program. With over 30 organizations, there is something for everyone! All of the participating archives are open to anyone with an interest in history. You can tour the facilities and get a glimpse of how historical treasures are stored, even learn how to do your own research. For more information go to: <http://pdxarchivists.wordpress.com> (Ed. Note: *I went last year and it was a great experience.*)

**Mark Your Calendars!  
November 21st at the Silverton Museum  
7:00 p.m.**

The annual Whatzzit” Program, where you can bring your unusual historical items to hopefully be identified...or possibly to stump the “experts.” Join us!



**Your Museum Needs You!!!!**  
**Please Consider serving as an officer or Board Member for the 2012 term. Nothing can match the pleasure of playing an active role in preserving Silverton’s History. Call the Museum at 873-7070.**

**New Addition to the Museum**

Below is another recent addition to the Museum from the R.E. Kleinsorge estate—an oak and glass instrument case once used in Dr. Kleinsorge’s office. Also included were several of the instruments used by Dr. Kleinsorge over the years. The case and other items will be on display in our Doctors’ Room on the second floor of the Museum.



**Friday, October 7, 2011 (First Friday)  
Stiff Furniture Building Open House  
301 E. Main Street  
5:30 p.m.**

I know you’ve been watching the progress at the building on the corner of First and Main Streets. Most of us know it as Stiff Furniture or Bill Duncan’s.....originally it was the Wray Furniture Building, built in 1902, remodeled in the 1910’s or ‘20’s. John and Tracy Cramer have worked many long hours on returning this old building to a functional ...and beautiful....condition. Join them as they host an open house this coming First Friday. See you there!





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Early Days in the Hop Fields

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Kathy Hunter	Membership
Molly Murphy	
Robin Anderson	
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**Thank you** to our new and renewing members—

Barry Shapiro  
Rick and Pat Lewis  
Eadie Anelli  
Fred Parkinson

Tim And Cheryl Erickson  
Rich and Deborah Gallagher  
Vern and Pat Wolfard

And **Thank You** to our generous donor—

Nancy H. Rose

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

**Thank you!**