

# Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



## Newsletter Story Updates

Fred A. Parkinson

During the last year I've had the distinct pleasure to write a series of articles for the Society newsletter. It has been very rewarding to offer my services in this way. Not being a professional writer, it can sometimes be challenging to come up with story concepts that people will find interesting and germane to Silverton history. Some stories have sprung from personal memories of life in Silverton and others have come to light through a casual search of museum files, a great resource for re-living Silverton history. Since I have an interest in historical architecture, most of my stories have involved, in one way or another, a Silverton building or home that may or may not still exist. It's always gratifying to find a subject that is interesting to both newsletter readers and me personally.

Writing stories is a stimulating process for me. Being somewhat of a trivia buff, I enjoy putting a few "fun facts" into my writing. Perhaps someone will learn something they didn't know after reading my articles. As with most publications, there are deadlines to be met. A story can only be as complete as the information available up to the moment of publication.

One of the most satisfying aspects of writing for the newsletter is when that wonderful "aha!" moment comes while performing research, as occurred while writing the story concerning the existence and ultimate fate of the Silverton Hotel. I wish I could fully describe the sense of euphoria felt when Chris Schwab brought out the picture of the Silverton Hotel fire on Oak Street, therefore vindicating my original theory concerning the location of the hotel.

On the other hand, it's sometimes a little disappointing when information comes to light after the newsletter has been published that would have been perfect to include in the original story. Here are a few examples:

A different picture of the Silverton Hotel fire has recently surfaced. The picture originally published in the February, 2012 newsletter was a view looking west on Oak Street from First Street. While it may not have actually been printed with the article, mention would have surely been made of the alternate, opposite, view; a picture of the fire looking east down Oak Street, apparently taken from the upper floor of the building occupied presently by Mac's Place.



It was a gratifying learning experience to write the article for the July, 2012 newsletter about the distinctive structure built by Dr. A. F. Blackerby on South Water Street. This is a building I have no memory of that was razed when I was a small child. I originally became aware of this building when I examined a box of Silverton ephemera loaned to me by a friend of my parents. The box contained several snapshots of a unique building that appeared to have stood on the present site of the foot bridge across the creek adjacent to the Bobbie Mural. We briefly

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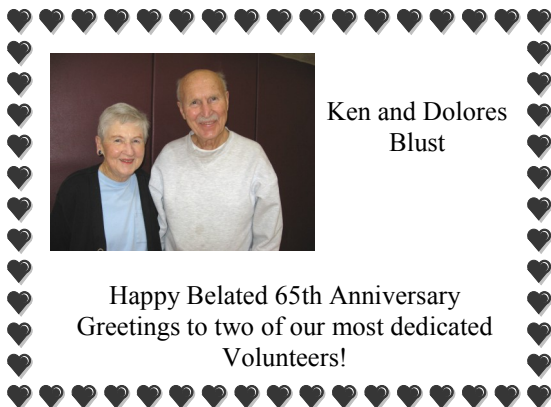
chatted on the phone about the business his family operated on the ground floor of the building. It wasn't until months later, when the friend subsequently gave me the same box of goodies Gus Frederick and I had salivated over those months ago, that he casually mentioned his family had actually lived on the second floor of the building during that time. He told me that since the rear of the building abutted the creek, he was able to go fishing by simply dangling his line out the back window into Silver Creek. This would have been a great anecdote to add some flavor to the original story.

Two situations occurred after the article about the Coolidge-Parkinson house, which appeared in the September, 2012 newsletter, was published. The first was a nice email from our own treasurer, Tracy Duerst, complimenting me on my efforts. Additionally, and exciting for me, was her included scans showing people at a 1930's or 1940's party, obviously taken in the basement knotty pine room at my parent's house. Also included was a copy of a very creative New Year's Day party invitation, printed in the format of a legal summons. The recipient was asked to "appear" at the Preston house at 301 West Main Street on January 1, 1939.

The second occurrence was perhaps the more coincidental for me in relation to the story. The article was a more comprehensive effort than generally appears in the newsletter. It took several weeks of research to compile the data for the article. Besides talking to my parents, I was able to contact one former resident of the home. I actually tried to contact two former residents, but the second person appeared to have relocated to the East years ago. An email sent several months ago went unanswered. Once again, based on the information I had at the time, the newsletter was published.

I received a call from my sister three months after the unanswered email was sent. While our parents were out for the day, she had gone to their house to pick up something. As she pulled in the driveway, a man was walking down the driveway to get to his car, parked on the street. He explained that he had received an email from me several months ago, but had not replied because he didn't recognize who I was. He had recently relocated back to the Northwest and happened to be in the Portland area visiting relatives. Since Silverton was so close, he decided to drive down and stop by the house. I immediately drove over and was able to talk to the person for a while. He gave me additional insight as to what it was like to live in the house. I'm still amazed that if my sister had been **one minute** later getting to the house she would have surely missed seeing the former resident and I would have missed getting additional information about the house. I call that serendipity!

This just goes to show that studying history can be a constantly evolving process. That's part of the allure; there's always something new to learn, from whatever unusual or different source it comes from. Conveniently, new discoveries can also provide fodder for subsequent newsletter articles!

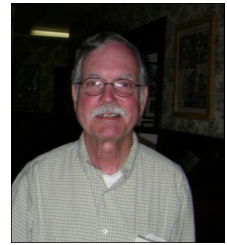


Ever wonder what it takes to get your newsletter to you? Here is a group of volunteers who, fold, tape and stamp about 100 newsletters.....and solve the problems of the world in the process!

## *From The President. . .*

### **Another Memorial Marker**

Following up on my article in last month's newsletter about Silverton area memorials, I recently discovered another memorial marker in front of the library in town. Planted among the shrubs in the recently redone garden is a small metal marker containing the inscription "In Memory of Maurice Schnorenberg", who was an active member of the community for many years. I knew Mr. Schnorenberg for many, many years myself. He operated a seed and feed store on North Water Street in the building where the Silverton Flower Shop is currently located.



### **Another Reason For Us Being There**

Every once in awhile I have something happen that makes me realize that all sorts of things in life take little twists and turns that help create a completely different picture than what we first imagine.

I was hosting the museum, together with Fred Parkinson, on Sunday, November 11 (Veteran's Day). It was a rainy, blustery day outside, and I had just remarked to Fred about the special Veteran's Day display that had been arranged in the front room at the museum, and how it seemed like a lot of extra work for someone to do to create a dedicated display for such a short run (the first two weekends of November), especially since it seemed that no one even bothered to come by and see it.

The words were barely out of my mouth when in came our first visitor for the day (he turned out to be our only visitor as well). This fellow from Silverton came in specifically to see our Veteran's Day display. He'd read about it in the Our Town newspaper, and since he was a veteran himself, he wanted to see what we had. By the time he left about an hour later, he had spent at least ½ that time looking over what we had set up for viewing and was very interested in what we had there. He also spent about another ½ hour looking at the other displayed items in the museum, but his primary reason for being there was the Veteran's display. We had an opportunity to talk to him about our proposed Silverton Veteran's Memorial, and he was obviously proud of his time spent in the military. It was readily apparent that his being there was our reason for being there as well.

So, the hour or so with a veteran who was able to view and enjoy our display was absolutely worth the three hours Fred and I spent there at the museum on an otherwise quiet Sunday afternoon. There's nothing like seeing firsthand a person able to relive just a tiny piece of their past to make one realize that our museum, as do most museums, has a lot to offer folks, and sometimes out of the most unlikely experiences come a bonus like we experienced, an opportunity to show in some small way (with the display we had available) that we appreciate what someone did for our country by serving it with pride!

So, I'll try to remember that the next time I'm sitting in the museum waiting for a visitor to come by. Perhaps the very next visitor who walks through our door will discover in a very poignant way that we have just what they are looking for, a chance to relive a little bit of their past.

Norm

*Silverton Country Museum - History in the Making*



**Whatzit? Program**

Monday, November 19, 2012 at the Museum

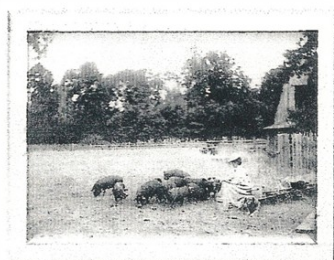
**Scotts Mills Field Trip, November 17, 2012**

On Saturday, Nov. 17, members of the SCHS Board met for coffee at the home of Ruth Kaser and then moved on to the Markum Inn for a delicious lunch. After that, it was on to the Scotts Mills Area Historical Society Museum, where Curator, Margaret Gersch, gave us a brief history of Scotts Mills and the story of the museum. We were then free to explore the contents, housed in an early Christian Church built in 1897. The museum, located at 210 Grandview Avenue, is open the second Sunday of the month,

March through October, 1 to 5pm, or by appointment. A great place to visit!



Curator Margaret Gersch (center photo) gives the SCHS board a little background information on the town of Scotts Mills.



Coming Soon—*SCOTTS MILLS A Pictorial History*

By Lois E. Helvey Ray and Judith Sanders Chapman

\$15.00 plus shipping if mailed to you

Over 180 historic photos of Scotts Mills, written by the coauthors of the Molalla Pictorial History. For more information or to order a copy, contact Lois E. Ray at rayd@molalla.net or Margaret Gersch at 503-873-6596.

*When We Were Young: Childhood Around the Valley*  
*3rd Annual Heritage Invitational Extravaganza*  
 Opens January 2013 at The Willamette Heritage Center

**WHAT:** *When We Were Young: Childhood Around the Valley*  
**WHEN:** Friday, January 18 through Saturday, March 16, 2013  
**WHERE:** 1313 Mill Street SE, Salem, OR 97301  
**COST:** FREE for Willamette Heritage members of as well as members of the other participating museums and organizations. WHC regular admission is \$6 for adults, \$5 for seniors

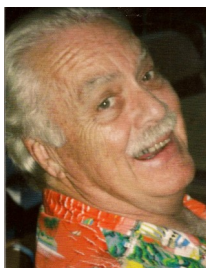
SCHS is proud to be one of the participants in *When We Were Young*, the Center's third annual Heritage Invitational Exhibition. This display explores a range of ideas about "childhood," from planting trees after the Tillamook Burn to the role of children in the history of the Good Samaritan School of Nursing; from toys, dolls and games from a by-gone era to the lives of Albany teenagers from the late 1800s through the 1940s. SCHS will be sharing stories and memorabilia of Silverton citizens growing up in Silverton's early days.



For more information, please contact SCHS at 503-873-7070 or Keni Sturgeon, 503 585-7012 or email [kenis@willametteheritage.org](mailto:kenis@willametteheritage.org).

**SCHS Annual Meeting**  
**Saturday, January 19—1 to 3 pm**  
**Oak Street Church (Corner of Oak & 3<sup>rd</sup> Street)**  
**Program—Silverton in Miniature—Gregg Sheesley**

Join us as Gregg shares his miniature buildings of historic Silverton businesses! Gregg's structures are approximately O Scale (1/43 size), similar to the Lionel train scale. They are built entirely by hand from wood, cardboard and found materials.....popsicle sticks become trim, matchsticks cut into 1/8" long pieces become bricks, thin plastic packaging forms windows, and all signage is hand lettered. The pieces are then hand painted, using old photographs as a guide.



Gregg will be bringing a replica of Carpenters Union Gas Station with Fred Caverder's Tire Store (ca. 1924, corner of Oak and N. First St); John Uphoff's Silverton Auto Service Red Crown Station Arcade (corner of Oak and N. Water St., ca. 1927) and the Southern Pacific Depot (N. Water near Brown Street, currently located near the museum on S. Water Street). Gregg will share his process and tell of the pleasure he derives from the model making and preserving the rich architectural heritage which makes up our little town.

Gregg has been a resident of Silverton since 1976 and lives in a 1890 Queen Anne style home on South Water Street. He has been demonstrating his hobby at the Silverton Fine Arts Festival as well as in the window of Silver Creek Coffee House. We are definitely in for a treat!

Other miniature buildings from the Museum's collections will also be on display, primarily the works of Mary Ruhl Dodds. Following a brief business meeting and election of officers for 2013, there will be refreshments and a chance for visiting. Hope to see you there!

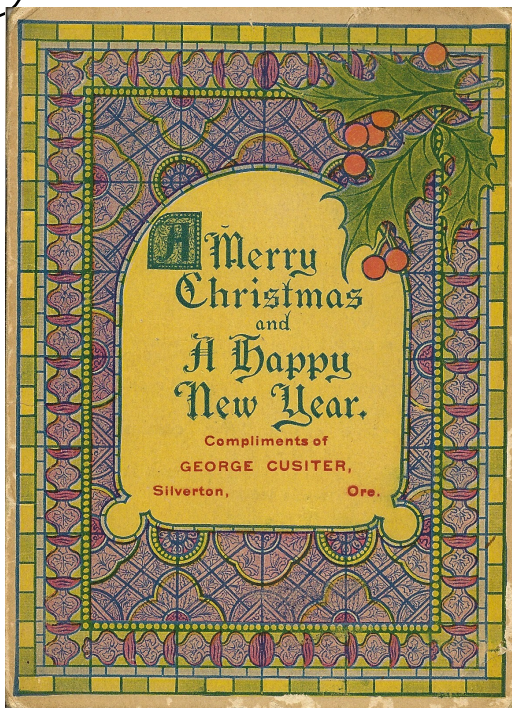




428 SOUTH WATER STREET  
SILVERTON OR 97381

OFFICE PHONE 503-873-7070  
EMAIL US  
SILVERTON.MUSEUM@LIVE.COM

**WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.COM**



*Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
From Your Historical Society!*

**Thank you** to our new and renewing members—



Rufus and Kay LaLone  
Mark Myers  
Ted and Carol Roubal  
Andy and Rhonda Bellando  
Kate Schwab and Paul Groendes  
Ann Ebner  
Willamete Valley Bank

And **Thank you** for  
your donations!



Jack Hande  
Michael Ramsby  
and



Walt Pelett

The value of the support of our members  
cannot be adequately measured.

**Your S.C.H.S. Board**

Norm English	President
Ray Hunter	Past-Pres.
<b>Vacant</b>	Vice-Pres.
Chris Schwab	Secretary
Tracy Duerst	Treasurer
Jan Long	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Molly Murphy	
Marsha Worthen	
Kay LaLone	
Ruth Kaser	

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

**Thank you!**