

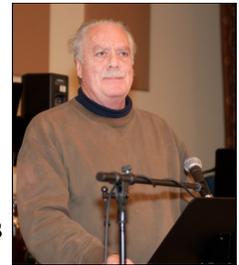
# Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



## SCHS Annual Meeting

This year's annual meeting was again held at the Oak Street Church, a wonderfully historic facility with lots of room and an excellent sound system. We are always grateful for their indulgence in letting us host our largest get-together of the year. Our featured speaker for 2013 was Gregg Sheesley who provided us with a background on how he came to build his wonderful miniature buildings; but Gregg also let his models of Carpenter's Union Gas Station, John Uphoff's store, and the Southern Pacific Depot speak for themselves. Members and visitors were delighted to take a close look at these jewels, built primarily from found materials. Gregg also brought a replica of the old Masonic Building with the Four Freedoms murals painted on the side that had been fashioned by his father, Bud Sheesley.



Read about our volunteer of the year and see more photos on page five. Thanks to all of you who attended and are so willing to support your historical society!



### Mark Your Calendars—Upcoming events!!

**March 14 (Thursday) 7:00 pm**  
**Silverton Museum**

Max Marbles, well-known book binder from Salem, will discuss the care, repair and preservation of books, documents and photos. You may bring items you have questions about for Max's input.

Also coming up—More information in future newsletters

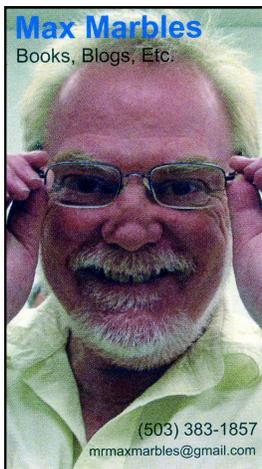
**May 20, 7:00 pm**—Gus Frederick, History of the Silver Falls Library

**June**—Walking Tour of South Water Street (date to be determined—probably a Saturday)

**July 6**—Library Centennial celebration—ice cream social, band concert. Museum will be open extra hours.

**August 2, 3, 4**—Homer Davenport Days

**August 24**—SCHS picnic at Coolidge McClaine Park



## Silverton Centennial Window Displays

By Fred A. Parkinson

Silverton is fortunate to have a historical society dedicated to preserving the town's local history; past, present and future. Residents are also lucky to have a local museum, located in a historic home and open to the public, to house, preserve, and display those items relating to the history and development of the Silverton Country. It hasn't always been this way.

Throughout Silverton's existence many significant artifacts, photographs, and ephemera have undoubtedly been lost, possibly due to the lack of a qualified local repository in which to house them. An early effort was undertaken in 1930 to form a historical society. A two paragraph article in the March 7, 1930 Silverton Appeal expressed interest in establishing a museum. The article, under the headline "**Why Not Provide Room for Museum,**" stated that J.D. Drake, P. L. Brown, and L.M. Gottenberg each had historical items that would benefit from being housed in a museum. An organizational meeting was held three weeks later to establish the Silverton Historical Society. June Drake was elected President and Percy Brown was elected Secretary, with Reber Allen serving as the Secretary's assistant. To generate continued enthusiasm for the aims of the historical society, artifacts were viewed by those present at the meeting. Records are unavailable, but at some point the Silverton Historical Society fizzled, dissolved, or otherwise went out of existence, perhaps due to the burgeoning Great Depression, leaving the town with no organization to preserve the past .

This was the state of affairs, twenty-four years later as the Silverton's Centennial Celebration, held in August, 1954, approached. Centennial activities included a parade, pageant and other public events. The business community came together during the celebration to create a unique "ad hoc" museum, comprising the entire downtown business district. This endeavor included approximately thirty window displays, presenting a wealth of historic artifacts from Silverton's past. The August 6, 1954 Appeal-Tribune ran a comprehensive article detailing the many historic displays available for viewing around town under a five-part headline proclaiming:

"Amazing Windows; Antiques Shown; Enough Material to Open a Museum; Early Day Articles Reveal Past; Chance of a Lifetime to Brouse (sic) Around the Old Town."

The article featured descriptions of many different displays. Sadly, not a single business listed in the article exists today, although the Coolidge and McClaine bank building on the corner of East Main and First Street has continuously housed a series of banks. Several businesses showed items related to their business niche. H.L. Stiff Furniture had a collection of old furniture that came from the Waldo and Mascher families. Also displayed were a melodeon and a dulcimer, two popular musical instruments of a bygone era.

Among the items displayed by Silverton Drug on Oak Street was a mortar and pestle used by pioneer physician Dr. A. G. Hutton, who arrived in the Silverton Country in 1851. Interestingly enough, it turns out that Dr. Hutton was the Great-Grandfather of Marlin Hutton, husband of Carolyn Hutton, the museum's past curator. Even more astounding is, to this day the Hutton family has the very same mortar and pestle, displayed those many years ago, exhibited in their home.



Legard and Adams, a clothier located at the present site of the Stone Creek Cafe on East Main Street, exhibited a collection of small shoes and boots as well as a pair of hand-woven and handmade trousers thought to be over one-hundred years old.

The interesting displays included items shown at a used furniture store operated by F.W. Dillow. Articles included a collection of vintage calling and business cards, arrowheads, Drake Brothers photographs, and, most notably, a copy of the very first issue of the Silverton Appeal, dated May 17, 1880.

Continued on page 3

The Marshall Wells Hardware Store at 119 North Water Street and currently occupied by Mountain West Real Estate and others, included a fireplace crane with pot, which was a bracket attached to the front inside wall of a fire box from which a pot could be hung to cook and warm food. Coincidentally, two of the large red and white Marshall Wells signs that apparently hung on the outside of the business are currently at the museum: one stored in the basement and one on display in the Depot.

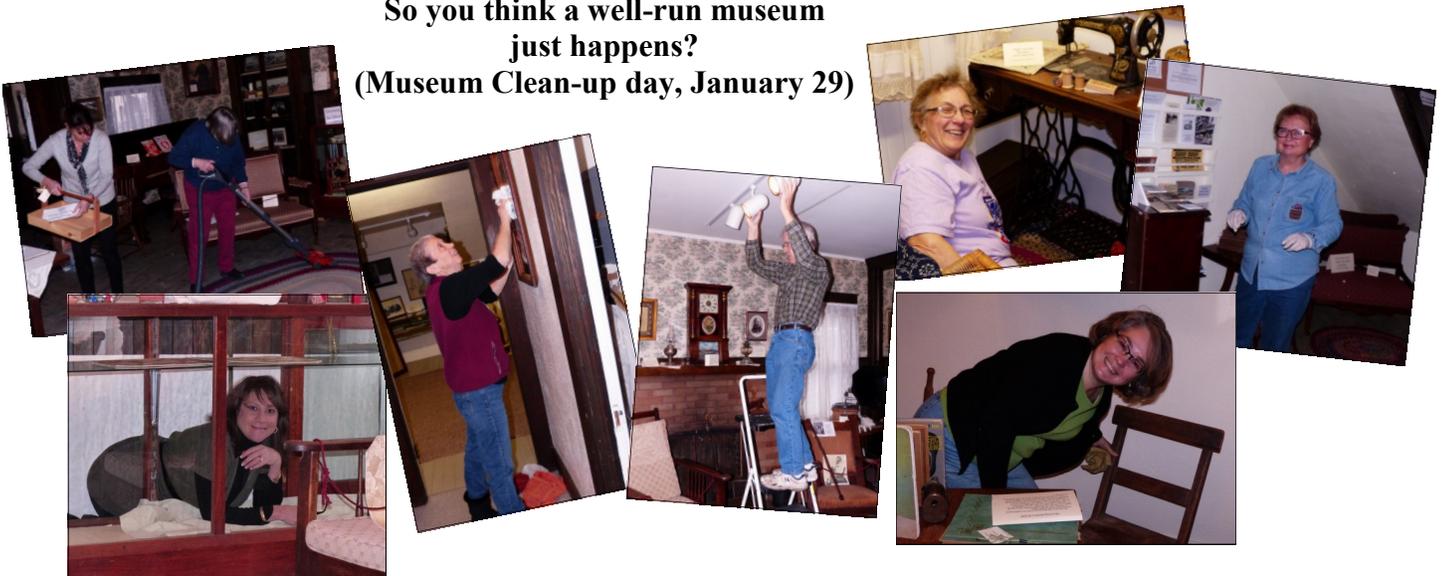
A popular exhibit was the window at the Anderson Barber Shop on First Street. A Monitor resident loaned a wide variety of items for the display, including the front counter grill from the Monitor State Bank, which voluntarily shut down in March, 1930. Additionally, a couple of wagon seats were positioned out on the sidewalk. A highlight of the display was a selection of Centennial promotional photos, featuring Mr. Anderson and other local residents, taken by McEwan Photo Shop to publicize the Centennial.



The JC Penney store on Oak Street had two very elaborate windows displaying clothes, furniture, knick-knacks and other small items. Of particular interest was an item identified in the Appeal-Tribune article as the “famous Davenport china pheasant Quilt.” Asking around the Museum and inquiring of Davenport scholars finds no evidence of this so-called famous quilt. It may or may not be shown in the accompanying picture. If anyone has information about this artifact, please contact the museum.

Much has changed in the fifty-nine years since the Silverton Centennial Celebration, where men sported pioneer beards and ladies wore long dresses with bonnets. The stalled historical society was reborn in the early 1970’s as the Silverton Country Historical Society. Shortly thereafter, a historic home was provided for use as a museum. Since that time, countless artifacts and historical ephemera have been contributed by many generous donors that have then been cataloged for display and research by many dedicated volunteers. The community is indeed privileged to have an active advocate for local history in the Silverton Country Historical Society, as well as a local facility to house and display the abundance of local treasures.

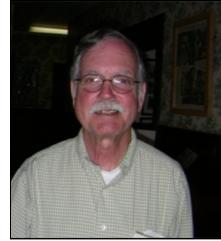
**So you think a well-run museum just happens?  
(Museum Clean-up day, January 29)**



## *From the President...*

### **Volunteerism**

I was deeply honored to receive the Volunteer of the Year for 2012 at this year's Annual Meeting. I have simply been amazed by the few volunteers that SCHS relies on regularly for virtually everything that keeps our society functioning smoothly. Even though we have a small volunteer base with which to work in keeping things going, we are blessed with some of the hardest-working folks I believe I have ever seen in an organization. I mean that sincerely. We have at least two who have given more than 200 hours each of their time to the tasks that need doing at the museum in 2012. That is a lot of hours and tremendous dedication to the cause. At the risk of mentioning some names but not others, a thousand thank you's to all of you who volunteer regularly. We could not function without you. But, we can certainly use more of you to help with all those many things that need doing, so if you feel so led, won't you consider helping in any way that you can. Let Curator Jan Wolfard-Long know that you're able to give a few hours of your time. We especially are in need of Museum Hosts.



### **Update on H.D Mount Marker**

I recently talked with the facilities person at the Silverton Hospital, and she advised me on what is happening with the H.D. Mount marker that I talked about in a past President's Message. Recall that I mentioned that there had been a brass plaque mounted on a large rock in the oak grove at the South end of the hospital, but at some point when an addition was built recently, that rock and plaque was removed. The H.D. Mount plaque was placed there at the time the hospital was built in about 1937 at the request of the family to commemorate the Mounts, who lived on that site for many years and who sold the land to the hospital for the construction of the new facility. The Silverton Hospital is working on a plan to place another rock and a brand-new plaque in a specific spot in the outdoors garden, hopefully very soon. A dedication ceremony is planned when that garden is ready, and so, another piece of Silverton history is maintained for future generations when that does occur.

### **Silverton Veterans War Memorial**

I've been talking to lots of you, as well as the folks at the City of Silverton, various service organizations in town, and anyone who will listen about the Silverton Veterans War Memorial plans that are moving forward. We've gotten tentative approval from the city administration to locate the memorial at Town Square Park. Approval by the City Council will still need to come, and we have a couple of potential designs that we are obtaining cost estimates on to determine how much funding we are looking at. Soon, we will begin the publicity and the beginning of the fund raising, so stay tuned for further developments on this important effort to recognize and commemorate the 44 men from the Silverton area who gave their lives for their country during World War I, World War II, Korean War and the Vietnam conflict. This effort is being spear-headed by the Silverton Country Historical Society, but we will need financial help and a willingness by many to 'talk it up' in order for our efforts to be rewarded. Please help in any way that you can.

### **Traveling Display Starting Up Again for 2013**

Beginning with the First Friday event in April, the SCHS Traveling Display will begin again with a display on the Silverton Red Sox baseball team, to coincide with the start of the Major League Baseball Season. Watch for us at Radio Shack in April, and if you can help with this, kindly let me know.

—Norm

*Silverton Country Museum - History in the Making*

### Volunteer of the Year—Norm English



Our volunteer of the year wears many hats,—not just the tweed cap or the spiffy Panama or the canvas topper that he wears as he makes his daily trek downtown.....no, he wears many other not so tangible hats: a SACA hat, a Trinity Lutheran Church hat, a Mural Society hat, Scottish Tam-o-Shanter, and.....a Historical Society hat. Since Norm became our President last year he has impressed us with his willingness “to put his money where his mouth is.” A need comes up at a board meeting and Norm is right on it. How can we best get the word out to the community about all we do? Before we know it, Norm has put together a traveling display...perhaps you’ve seen us at First Fridays at various locations around town.

Norm comes up with the theme, gathers the artifacts, transports the display from the Museum to the store front and back again and usually acts as a willing host. (He could use some help, though..... please consider volunteering.)

Norm is also working on preparing a banner to accompany our forays into the community; he almost single-handedly repainted the Museum porch and steps; and flooding in the basement last winter found Norm filling sand bags to help stem the flow of water through the basement door. And if that weren’t enough, Norm is always willing to act as a guide for our many grade school tours and he is a regular Museum host on the weekends. And he writes wonderfully insightful President’s messages for our newsletter.

His most impressive undertaking to date is working on the establishment of a Veteran’s memorial, listing all of Silverton’s war casualties from WWI on---this is truly a passion of his. Please keep checking with us for information as Norm continues to get approvals and collect ideas.

Norm...you amaze your fellow volunteers with your commitment. You blow us away with your dedication and make all of us jealous of your energy. But most of all you make us truly grateful that you are a part of the Silverton Country Historical Society. Congratulations to our volunteer of the year!



New additions to your board (from L to R)  
Molly Murphy, Vice President  
Fred A. Parkinson, new board member filling out the remainder of Molly’s board term  
Kay LaLone, continuing for another term  
**Thank you all for your enthusiasm and dedication!**

More Annual meeting photos...





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From the Curator:

Volunteers are always needed at the Museum. If you have any friends or family members who are interested in history, please come in and see our wonderful museum. We have so much to offer. Donating a couple of hours here and there can make such a difference in making sure that we preserve its existence so we can share it with all of the generations to come. **Anyone interested please contact Jan Long, curator, 503-510-7562 or leave a message at the Museum 873-7070.**



“New” entry way, before  
.....and after.



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

Aylene Geringer (The Chocolate Box)  
Cleone Butler                      Eadie Anelli  
Nellie Graves                      Joyce Roth  
Carolyn Hutton                      Jan Long  
Glen Olsen                          Chris Schwab  
Aileen Conrad                      Ruth Kaser  
Jeff and Cindy Lampa  
Joseph and Carolyn Wahlster  
Susan Dillon and Michael Milhausen

We cannot do this without the support of our members....

Your S.C.H.S. Board

Norm English	President
Ray Hunter	Past-Pres.
Molly Murphy	Vice-Pres.
Chris Schwab	Secretary
Tracy Duerst	Treasurer
Jan Long	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Marsha Worthen	
Kay LaLone	
Ruth Kaser	
Fred A. Parkinson	

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

**Thank you!**