

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Forty Years of History in the Making



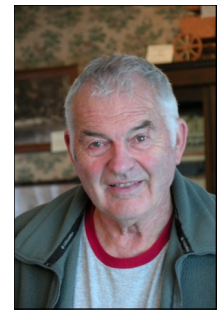
Museum and Office
428 South Water Street

A History of Eugene Field School

By Jack Hande

Ed. Note: Everyone knows Jack Hande, a very dedicated, hard-working volunteer here at the Museum and totally committed to preserving Silverton's history. He was born in Silverton to Carl and Irene Hande (long-time community activists), attended Silverton schools, and is a retired Silverton High School teacher. Jack is one of our regular hosts at the museum-- you can always find him there the first Saturday of every month.

Recently Jack prepared a personal recollection of Eugene Field School, (much in the news lately). We will be sharing his remembrances with you in the next few newsletters. He has also produced a bound, illustrated (his own wonderful drawings) volume that can be seen here at the museum but can also be purchased from Jack. This is not to be missed!



I wish to express my knowledge and feelings about my old school. When you are young and you have a big (potential) future, but a short past, you tend to focus on the prospects in the future. When you are old with a short future and a huge past where will your thoughts focus? If your memory still serves you, then you have a wealth of useful information at hand. You have the advantage of your many old memories and a perspective for the future. Even though your future is limited you will wish to have things "go right." A young person is searching for answers to avoid repeating errors. They can learn from their elders before they are gone.

Eugene Field School is not just another old school. When it was built it was an unusual school in its time. Many other schools were multi-storied, high ceilinged fire hazards. Eugene Field was a one-storied school with windows at ground level that opened for children to escape the building directly from almost any room. Its Mediterranean style was different from other schools at the time. The predecessor of the Eugene Field School was the Ralph Waldo Emerson School that was built in 1890. To handle the increased school population they built the beginnings of Eugene Field School. One winter night the Emerson School burned to the ground. Frozen water sources kept the firemen from stopping the fire. Luckily the building was unoccupied.



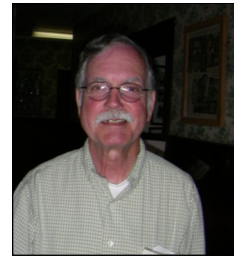
My parents grew up in Hillsboro, Oregon. My mother's family used to attend family reunions at Wilhoit Springs, south of Molalla. When the Eugene Field School was built in 1922-23 it was so unusual that my grandparents took a side trip to Silverton to see the school. My mother was about 13 years old. She remembers one of those trips requiring the repair of 19 flat tires.

As time went on my parents moved to Silverton when I was 6 months old in 1931. Our family operated the Handy Variety store from 1930 until 1943. Later my parents had the Carl Hande Hardware Store from 1949-81. I attended Eugene Field School for grades one through eight.

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From the President...

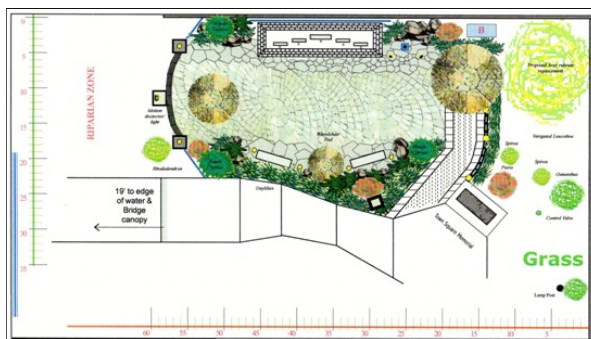
One of the things I get to do somewhat regularly is to look for possibilities of items to consider for accession to the museum's collection. I'm sure many of you also are on the lookout for items with a Silverton history that would be a wonderful addition to our display. Recently, to add the next chapter to the H.D. Mount memorial marker that I reported on in this column more than a year ago, I was recently contacted again by the Mount family. You may recall the first part of the story about this marker, that when the site where the current hospital is located was sold by the Mount family, part of the terms of the sale was to create a Mount memorial in the oak grove that existed to one end of the property. That marker existed for many years largely intact, but in recent years, due to further expansion of the hospital facility, it was removed and the oak trees were cut down. Through some contacts I made with the hospital, that marker was found in their archives.



In the meantime, the Mount family had contacted the hospital about commissioning a new marker to be placed in the inner garden area there at the hospital, and just recently I was notified that that marker is now finished and ready for installation and dedication in mid-summer. At that same time, it is the family's intention that the old marker be presented to the museum as part of our collection.

Also recently, I have been in contact with the Cooley family about obtaining one of the Cooley's signs from when the iris gardens were operating in Silverton. This is another one of Silverton's businesses that eventually became an institution, and it is important to retain some portion of it in the museum. Hopefully, that will happen very soon.

Update on the war memorial: Much has happened lately on the war memorial project. First of all, we now have adopted a new name, War Memorial Plaza – Silverton's Fallen Heroes. There will be additional lighting, pavers, A.D.A. grade requirements designed into the plan, a chateau bench along one end of the plaza, and new and repositioned plantings. These additions mean an increased price tag, now up to \$80,000. We've raised nearly \$9,000, and with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department grant of \$7,500 and a commitment from the City of Silverton for \$10,000 and the potential for a number of



Latest drawing of War Memorial Plaza – May, 2014

in-kind donations to lower the cost, we are hopeful that additional cash donations will come in soon and that we can actually break ground later on this summer. Major donations are being sought. We now have a committee of nine working on design specifics, brochure distribution, fundraising, promotion, publicity, and research of names. If you can help with donations or with any other part of the project, please contact us by calling the museum at 503 873-7070 or at silverton.museum@live.com, or you can contact me at home at 503 874-8101 or cell 503 930-7074. You can also contact one of the

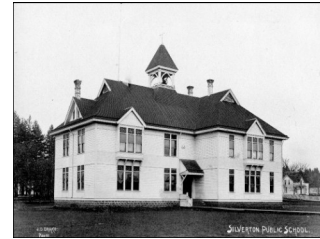
other committee members, Jack Hande, Gregg Sheesley, Ray Hunter, Steve Wiley, Jim Loftis, Rick Lewis, or Steve Fetters.

Norm

Silverton Country Museum - History in the Making

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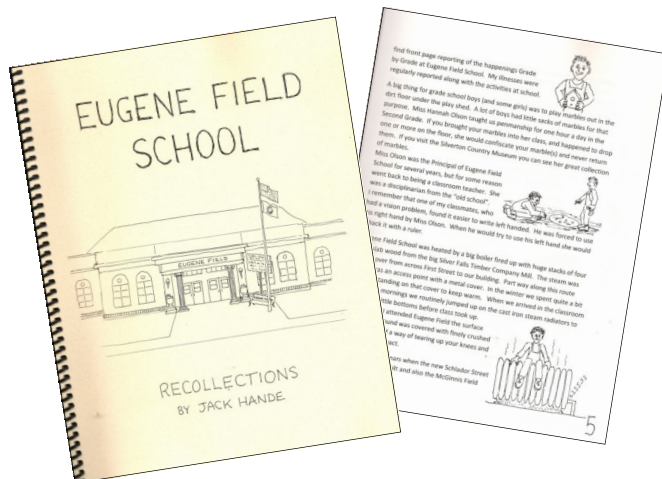
When the Emerson School burned (1924) there was a need to add on to the Eugene Field School. The original school was located along Water Street from Park Street up to the end of the gymnasium. The newer part is that which lies along Park Street and the part on Water Street from the gym to A Street, which includes a basement.



The gymnasium at Eugene Field School was used as the Silverton High School gym. The high school was located right across First Street from Eugene Field School. The high school basketball games were played there starting in about 1924. Some great basketball players learned their game there. Wayne Scott was an All-State first team selection for Silverton in 1933 and 1934. Another great from Silverton who played in that gym was Erland “Andy” Anderson who was a starting forward on the Oregon State College team that went to the national final four in 1948 coached by “Slats” Gill. The gym’s gallery seating is admittedly a poorly designed hazardous structure, but it never did have much of a capacity. The first seniors to graduate from the new Schlador Street High School were the Class of 1940, and a brand new gym was in use.

There are moving pictures taken by June Drake in 1926 of the Silverton High versus Hillsboro High football game played on the old athletic field up by the water tower on West Hill. That field is covered with buildings today. Also on another film there are some scenes of children coming out of Eugene Field School at the main entrance showing barriers to keep the kids off of the newly planted grass when the building was quite new. If you had noticed the sign on the front entrance years ago the letter “U” was a “V” respecting the ancient use of “V” for a “U”. It was that way when I attended Eugene Field School from 1936-45.

To be continued in future issues....



Jack’s book of the history of Eugene Field School will be on sale at the Museum or from Jack himself. Cost is \$5

Volunteers needed for the Museums’ Curator Committee!!

This is the group that works with the curator to accession donations, obtain volunteer hosts, arrange displays, coordinate group tours...the list can go on and on. In fact, this group is the heart of your museum.

Our wonderful current curator, Jan Long will be stepping down due to many personal commitments, so we need a pool of volunteers who can help keep the museum running.

What would even be better: A new volunteer curator!! Think it over and then call us at 503-873-7070. You would be working with the nicest group of people in Silverton, if I do say so myself!!

Historical Society Open House!!



Silverton Country Historical Society sends a friendly welcome to young and old and an invitation to take in a free open house at the museum from 2-4 p.m. Sunday, June 29. A number of society members will be present to answer your questions. Summery refreshments -- cookies and lemonade -- will be served at the gazebo housing the Old Oak stump in the city park back of the building.

All museum rooms, along with the Depot adjacent to the house, will be open for visitors to explore. Hosts will include society President Norm English, who will explain and promote the veterans memorial in the planning stages to be placed in Silverton's Town Square Park. Donations for the memorial are welcome.

Oral history videos of a number of local residents will be played, and a handout will be available that explains society membership and how to be involved.

The museum is located at 438 S. Water St., next to Silver Falls Library and across from Silverton Community Center. Phone: 503-873-7070. See you there!!!

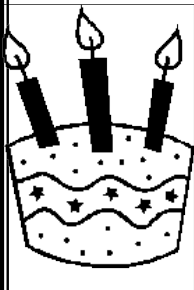
Historic Silver Falls Days Saturday and Sunday, July 12 and 13 10 am to 4 pm



From Native Americans, to loggers, to homesteaders, to parks, the land we know today as Silver Falls State Park has a colorful history. Join us for demonstrations, displays, and games that bring history to life.

Admission is FREE (Parking \$5.00/vehicle). All events are cosponsored by Silver Falls State Park and the Friends of Silver Falls. For more information call: 503-874-0201. To volunteer call: 503-581-4155.

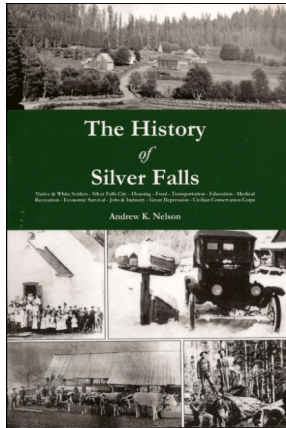
Frank Lloyd Wright Birthday Party At The Gordon House!



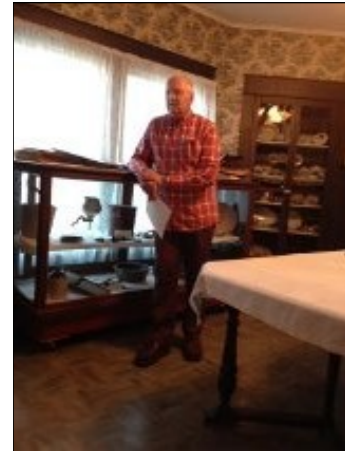
The Gordon House, designed by world renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright, will host a special celebration on Saturday, June 21, to commemorate Wright's birthday. You're invited to tour and enjoy his only building in Oregon 50 years after it was built as Wright's demonstration of the only truly American architectural style.

Self-guided tours of the house are available from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. for the special birthday celebration price of \$5 per person. The house is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is a true Oregon treasure. Gordon and Wright exhibits will be on display in the house for this event. Birthday refreshments will be served.

The History of Silver Falls



At our May member program, we were very happy to hear Andy Nelson, a volunteer with the Friends of Silver Falls State Park, tell us about how he came to write his recent book, *The History of Silver Falls*. He was an engaging speaker and the book is wonderful. Copies will be available for purchase here at the museum. Mr. Nelson is also the editor of "We Were There," a compilation of recollections from people who lived in the Silver Falls area or knew about life there from the late 1880's through the early 1900's. Blanche Sweger, the founder of Friends of Silver Falls



State Park, compiled the original 60 interviews into a loose-leaf collection called "We Were There." In June of 2012, Mr. Nelson added 12 additional interviews and worked with the Friends of Silver Falls State Park to have the work bound and printed. While we don't have copies of this work for sale, we do have it available as a reference work for museum visitors.

Special Exhibition:

Boys of Summer
Willamette Heritage Center
at the Mill

Mid-Valley Baseball
June 20 - August 14

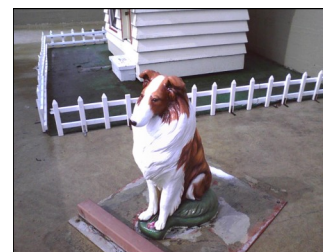


Baseball has been called "America's Pastime," but what is its story in the Mid-Willamette Valley? Come explore the history of Mid-Valley baseball – from its humble beginnings to the semi-pros, from the Senators to the Volcanoes, from Oregon State University to the Oregon State Penitentiary and the Silverton Red Sox! Learn about the shift from a multiday game to our modern nine innings, and discover how controversial it was to have baseball games held on the Sabbath. Free with museum admission.

Silverton Mural Society—Presents the 10th Annual Bobbie Day Saturday, June 21st at 2 pm

Come celebrate the journey of Bobbie, "The Wonder Dog," who in 1924 found his way nearly 3,000 miles cross-country to return to his family and home in Silverton.

Bobbie Look-A-like Contest, Guest speaker, Silverton Muralist, Lori Webb, Dick Moles' accordion music. Join the fun at Bobbie's House—
206 S. Water Street—Next to the Silverton Coffee Station.





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WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.COM

Thank you to our new and renewing members—
Your support is what keeps us going!

Patti Lindquist	Bill Preedeek	Nancy Korda
Mini Storall	Dorothy Ramig	John Dahl
Dawn Juliano	Citizen's Bank	Margo Drake Walker
Janet Slawson	Gail Joseph	Norma Halseth
Ed and Julie Bowles	Barbara Marquam	Kelly Miller
Ray and Kathy Hunter	Town House Restaurant	
Bob and Marilyn Dedrick	Gary and Joyce Wolfard	
Pete Tolmasoff and Family		

War Memorial Plaza—Silverton Fallen Heroes Donors—

Rudy Castillo	Neville S. Johansen	Silverton Realty Inc.
Mini Storall	Dr. Leroy Gilge	Charles Pattee
Columbia Bank	Philip T. Kelly, Atty	Rozetta Totland
Barbara Dahlum	Molalla VFW Post 3973	Gary and Nancy Ohren

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