

Silverton Country Historical Society

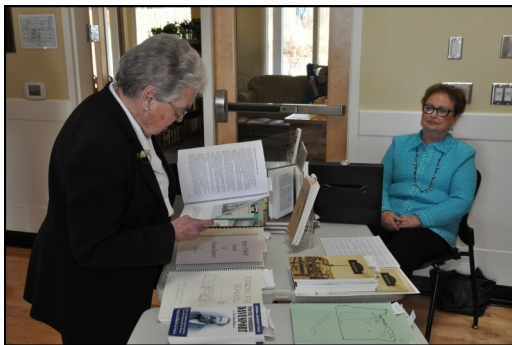
Established in 1974

Forty Years of History in the Making



*Museum and Office
428 South Water Street*

Celebrating Our History — SCHS Annual Meeting,



Kathy Hunter, Membership Chair, welcomes SCHS member Carolyn Simmons.



New SCHS Curator, Judy Lowery, shares Silverton history, with Marv Thompson.



SCHS President, Norm English, addresses members and guests.

Our Annual meeting was held on a beautifully sunny Saturday, January 24th at the Silverton Senior Center. Those attending listened intently as we reported on our activities for 2014, which included among other things: participating in the Willamette Heritage Invitational Exhibit for the 4th year, finalizing some landscaping around the Museum, participating in Historic Silver Falls Days and the Portland Archives Crawl, hosting the Dime Toss Booth fundraiser at the Homer Davenport Community Festival, applying for and receiving a grant from the Oregon Community Foundation for the construction of a storage/display case for the recently acquired Homer Davenport cartoons, and, of course, providing on-going assistance with research requests from the community

We reviewed the Society's budget, re-elected board Member Fred Parkinson, and added new Board Member Gus Frederick and new volunteer curator, Judy Lowery. Volunteer of the year, Fred Parkinson was recognized and an update of the progress of the War Memorial Plaza, Silverton's Fallen Heroes project was provided by SCHS President Norm English.

The membership was then treated to a presentation by Gus Frederick on the history of the Historical Society, the Museum and the Depot. And of course refreshments followed.

This is always such a great time to visit with old friends and greet new ones and share stories from Silverton's past.

Hope you can visit us at the Museum soon!



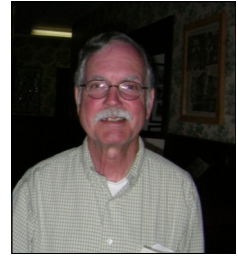
Congratulations to Volunteer of the Year, Fred Parkinson!



New Board Member, Gus Frederick, shared photos and stories from the Society's 40 year history.

From the President...

When I last reported in this column on the progress of fundraising efforts for the War Memorial Plaza-Silverton's Fallen Heroes, we were about \$20,000 shy of our goal. A lot has happened in those few short months in helping us move forward with the project.



Because the response to our call for donations has been very good over these past four months, I can now report to you that the construction part of the project is fully funded, what with donations and grants that we have received or that have been approved. On behalf of the War Memorial Committee, we would like to thank all the Silverton Country Historical Society members and others who helped us fund this project.



We will very soon be purchasing several major items needed for the plaza and donating them to the City of Silverton so they are there and ready to go when needed. The city is in the process of establishing their dedicated spending account and setting up the construction details so that groundbreaking can occur, perhaps as early as the latter part of April. And the actual construction would then continue throughout the summer months with a target for completion in the fall.

Additional fundraising is still ongoing for the purpose of paying for any contingency items that still need to be covered and for ongoing maintenance once the project is complete,

so if you have not yet donated to this project or would like to help with these items, please consider sending a check soon. And thanks to all of you who have already contributed to this wonderful project to honor Silverton's Fallen Heroes.

On another note, since we have once again opened the museum to visitors for the season, and since we have made a lot of revisions to our display, revamping several of the dedicated rooms into Silverton History, Red Sox, and Ladies Bedroom displays, even more than ever I can now say, "Come and see what we've done to the place." Keep us in mind for a visit real soon, and let me say here how thankful I am for our volunteers who have put all this together for folks to enjoy. Also, if you've been thinking about hosting at the museum, or would consider doing so one weekend day per month or even every other month, please give our Curator Judy Lowery a call and she'll let you know what is available.

Norm

Silverton Country Museum - History in the Making

Keep informed of what is going on at your Museum by way of this newsletter, through our website www.silvertonmuseum.org or follow us on Facebook.

A Long Time Coming.....

If you have ever viewed a photograph of historic Silverton, it was most likely taken by Silverton's foremost commercial photographer, June D. Drake. But Drake was not only an eminent photographer; he was a historian, a chronicler of the life and times of a community, a strong advocate for the preservation of nature, and a collector of mementos from all over the world.



Drake's photographs display an intense devotion to his home town and to the neighboring small towns. They cover not portraits alone, but the whole story of the town and surrounding countryside: its factories, mills, farms, fairs, fire, floods, parades, picnics, buildings, homes, roads, store interiors, shops, stables—regular life in the city. His images record not only the activities of the town but also the entire working life of June Drake and his studio.

However, when Drake was asked what he considered his greatest achievement, he replied without hesitation, "Silver Falls State Park." As early as 1900, Drake began photographing the Falls—he hired men to cut pathways so he could better document and preserve their spectacular beauty. He created publications advertising the splendor of the area and even purchased several hundred acres himself in order to help secure the land. His untiring efforts were instrumental in protecting the area from logging and helped to convince legislators to create a state park. In July of 1933, the area was opened to the public and dedicated as Silver Falls State Park. Drake's name still appears on landmarks in the area as recognition of his perseverance.

Drake gradually retired from photography in the late 1950's. He died in 1969 and is buried in Silverton Cemetery. But until recently, if you tried to find the gravesite of this outstanding Silverton citizen, you were unsuccessful. The grave marker of his father and mother, Charles and Fannie Drake, is quite prominent, and a search of cemetery records indicate that June and his wife Eleanor are buried in the same plotbut there was no visible marker showing this. That is—until last month.

June's granddaughter, Margo Drake Walker of Portland, had earlier asked us for help in finding her grandfather's grave. Disappointed by the fact that after all these years, there was nothing honoring the memory of this outstanding man, she decided to remedy the situation. Using the services of Pete Martinez, of Willamette Memorials, she had June and Eleanor's names added to the large existing grave marker. The photo below on the left displays the addition. It's a little hard to read as it is so new, but at last we can identify that this is indeed June Drake's resting place. And on the reverse side of the marker, as you may also be able to see in the center photograph below, is recognition of June Drake's proudest accomplishment.....

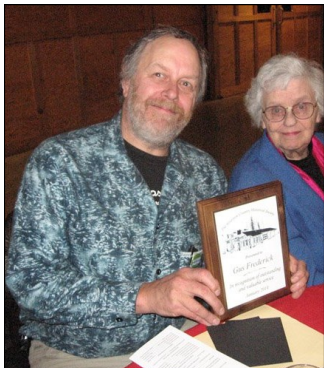


**JUNE D. DRAKE
FATHER OF SILVER FALLS STATE PARK**



Margo Walker at Historic
Silver Falls Days

Welcome Gus Frederick, new SCHS Board member!

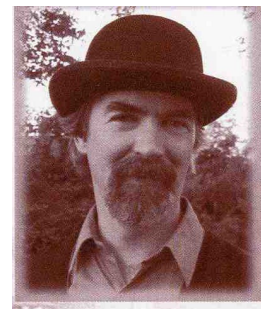


Gus Frederick is a 1973 graduate of Silverton High School. He has served as a Silverton City Councilor and is currently a member of the Silverton Planning Commission. A true historian, he is the author of Silverton from Arcadia Publishing's "Images of America" series, as well as the Annotated Cartoons by Homer Davenport and Timothy Woodbridge Davenport, The Collected Works. Gus is a frequent contributor to our newsletter and has recently updated our website and helps oversee our Facebook page. Gus helps also helps us out in many other ways too numerous to mention! We are pleased to have him on our board.

Gordon Munro on the Radio

KMUZ Turner 88.5 FM, Community Radio, is featuring SCHS member Gordon Munro, of Firelight Stories, on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Gordon shares folk tales and real stories from Oregon History. If you've ever heard Gordon perform in person, you know this is something not to be missed!

You can also listen live on line at <http://kmuz.org/> Click on the "Listen Live" button on the right. This will download the "listen.pls" into your downloads folder.



Oregon Cultural Trust Collects Record Donations in 2014!

Oregon Cultural Trust

Last year Oregonians donated a record \$4.4 million to the Oregon Cultural Trust. The OCT partners with over 1,400 cultural nonprofits throughout Oregon—a gift to one or more of these qualifying nonprofit organizations followed by a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust allows a donor to claim a tax credit—up to \$500 for individuals, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly, and \$2,500 for corporations. A tax credit reduces what you owe the State of Oregon. It is a much greater savings than a deduction, which only reduces the income on which you are taxed, and your contribution to Oregon's cultural entities is essentially doubled. For more information go to <http://www.culturaltrust.org>.

Thank you Kay LaLone!! Retiring Board Member



Kay joined SCHS in 2010, became a board member in 2011, and proceeded to serve on the board for two terms. We are sad to see her go, but everywhere we look, we will see signs of her presence: the amazing "trompe l'oeil" painting of curtains in the living room window that, seen from the street, are amazing lifelike; the lovely plantings and meticulously spread bark-dust around the museum; the hours helping out at the Dime Toss booth; and so many other instances of her enthusiasm and talent. One of my favorite memories is the wonderful picnic she and Rufus hosted at their beautiful home out North Abiqua. And we will always appreciate her willingness to always be available to help on SCHS projects in any way she could. We'll miss her!

Come visit our new, old displays!



A view of just part of the bedroom display, now relocated to upstairs.....



Bill Lowery delivers an anvil that belonged to Shannon Farms—it was used to forge various farm implements and horse shoes. It dates from 1820-1845 The Shannon Farm was located on Shannon Road. Judy Lowery is the great granddaughter of Grover Simmons who bought the Shannon Farm.



Another view of the completely made over bedroom display.



The early Silverton room, now featuring the recently acquired Homer Davenport cartoons, and a display of Davenport memorabilia. The room is located in what used to be the bedroom, downstairs.





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Celebrating 40 Years in the Community

WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.ORG

Thank you to our new and renewing members and generous donors—

Deborah Opitz	Victoria Delaney	Sylvia Sommers
Fritz Winkler	Kari Hatteberg	Susy Riches
Gregg Sheesley	Maggie McBride	Jack Geer
Jeff and Cindy Lampa	Aileen Conrad	Nellie Graves
Joseph and Carolyn Wahlster	Andy and Lou Nelson	
Larsen-Flynn Insurance	Charlotte and Carolyn Mueller	
Tom and Barbara Pelett		

Thank you to our friends who donated in memory of Barbary Hartley:

Doris Hartley	Karen Hartley	Beverly Nelson
Noreen Swanson	Ron and Jane Jones	Fred and Ruth Kaser
Jan Hartley and Tim Cunningham		

Thank you to these generous donors to the fund for the

War Memorial Plaza—Silverton Fallen Heroes

Republic Services	Fred and Ruth Kaser	Ken and Dolores Blust
Del and Patty Riley	Denny Chapman	Starks Farm
George King	Samuel Miller	Gordon Jernstedt
Silverton Flywheels	Bette Stewart	James Loftis
Mark and Mylisa Holland	American Legion Post 7	
Michael and Sandra Cunningham	Jack and Christine Conner	
Silicon Valley Community Foundation/PGE		

And thank you to all who have given anonymously or contributed via the collection containers through out town or at various events!

We apologize if we have omitted anyone.

Your S.C.H.S. Board

Norm English	President
Ray Hunter	Past-Pres.
Molly Murphy	Vice-Pres.
Chris Schwab	Secretary
Tracy Duerst	Treasurer
Judy Lowery	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Marsha Worthen	
Ruth Kaser	
Fred A. Parkinson	
Gus Frederick	

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