

# Silverton Country Historical Society

*Established in 1974*  
*Over Forty Years of History in the Making*



*Museum and Office*  
*428 South Water Street*

## SCHS Annual Member Picnic/Potluck!!

Saturday, September 10, 2016



Coolidge-McClaine Park  
(Look for our sign...)

Noon—till we are done  
visiting!

Join us as we celebrate the support of our membership.

We will provide plates, eating utensils and beverages..

Please bring a dish or two to share..... along with plenty of scintillating  
conversation!



### **Dime Toss makes money for SCHS once again!**

Our Dime Toss game showed up at the 2016 Homer Davenport Community Festival, much to the delight of children, teenagers and, yes, even adults. Dime Toss seems to be fun, addictive, and for many who win, the source of some pretty great prizes.



Thanks again to all the SCHS members and other Silverton community folks who clean out their cupboards and make donations of appealing articles to throw dimes at. Without your help, we would be nowhere.

Where would we be without the volunteers? They set up and take down a coded pile of boards that after much head-scratching and sweat result in a bright-green booth. They compile, sort, clean and rebox the items. They turn up for a two-hour shift – some, more than that -- at the festival. And they try to make the customers happy.

*Continued on Page 4*

In light of all the commercial building renovations going on in downtown Silverton, this seemed like a good time to reprint a couple of stories from a series Carolyn Hutton prepared for earlier newsletters on the history of some of these landmarks in the heart of Silverton.

This first one is from September 2009 with a couple of extra photographs added.

## THE AMES BUILDING

Known today as the Larson-Flynn building, it completes our coverage of the “main” intersection buildings.....the kingpins of our downtown. They greet people coming into town and they center the core of the town.

The Ames Building was built in 1905 by Louis Ames. It started serving its purpose that year by housing The People’s Bank of which Lou Ames was listed as a Director.

The People’s Bank, itself newly organized in 1905 occupied the main floor. In 1917, the bank was chartered under the name First National Bank and continued operating until 1930, when it went broke and Coolidge & McClaine Bank took over the operations.



Other businesses have used the building: the Silverton Appeal was printed in the basement between 1932 and 1951. Doctors and lawyers offices have occupied the second floor. Finally in the 1950’s, George Hubb’s Insurance took over the main floor.

Some research about Ames finds that he and his brother Sam (owner of Ames Hardware on the NE corner of the intersection) were aggressive businessmen. Sam Ames came to Silverton in 1877 and we presume his brother came about the same time. Lou Ames is proving to be a bit more difficult to trace. He apparently liked to keep, as we say today, a low profile.



Sam and Louis operated a Sash & Door Manufacturing plant before branching off into the hardware business. Between 1890 and 1905 the Ames Bros. chair factory sat on the site of the Hartman Building.

As of 1903 Louis Ames was also a landowner, owning 3-4 farms, devoting part of his land to the raising of hops.

*Information for this article can be found in the National Historic Downtown notebook, done for Historic Silverton, Inc in 1996. Also the Portrait and Biographical Records of the Willamette Valley has a large article by Sam Ames in which he mentions Louis and makes note of Louis’ business dealings.*



Carolyn Hutton

*Another story on Page 5*

## Curator's Corner

August has been a busy month for us at the museum. Kathy Hunter did a great job organizing all of the help at the 'coin toss' booth and we are all very grateful for all who participated.

Recently I received an email from Norman English that had been forwarded from Capi Lynn of the Statesman Journal. She was asking if the museum would like to have all of the copies of the Silverton Appeal that the Statesman Journal had been housing over the years. I called Capi back and we set up a date to pick them up, thinking that it would be a few years of issues. I couldn't make the first date and time so on a hunch I called Carolyn Hutton, first to ask her advice about getting the papers and secondly to ask her if she could help me out by picking them up.



These few days in August were some of the hottest that we had up to that time. I add that because after meeting Carolyn to unload the volumes at the museum, she told me that what she had gotten was only a



portion with many more waiting for a home. I wish we had videoed the unloading of her car. She brought a wheel chair, which worked slick, and as we were loading them up a passer-by asked if we needed help and where we got the wheel chair? I will leave you to your imagination as to her answer. I went back with a larger car that next day and picked up the rest of the volumes. All told we have over 70 leather bound issues of the Silverton Appeal, and over 11 unbound issues. The latest volumes are dated 2011 and the earliest is dated 1917. (Only part of the donation is shown here!)

As I was unloading the last of them, one of the unbound issues dated 1917 caught my attention. The heading read: 'Ex-High Girls Won'. The basketball game played by the current high school girls and the ones who had graduated was won by the former players. At the top of the list of the winning team was my great aunt Winona Palmer. My aunt had gone on to OAC (Oregon State) and played for the college. A really nice surprise. A huge thank you to Carolyn! After I picked up the last half I realized what a chore this was and am grateful for the boys who helped to load them up for us. Now, where will they all go?

*Judy Lowery*

## Déjà vu All Over Again!



Patti in 2008 with one of her newly crafted dust covers.

In 2008 we chose to recognize one of our outstanding volunteers, Patti Lindquist, SCHS member since 2007. One of Patti's most valuable contributions to the museum collection has been her skill with sewing. Using a pattern that we had here at the museum and taking measurements of the lengths of uniforms, coats, dresses, etc, she sewed 25 yards worth of unbleached muslin into dust covers and donated another whole bolt of muslin in order to complete the project (the museum has a lot of clothes!). Well...this year she is at it again! So far she has completed three and is willing to make more as the need arises. Thank you, Patti!! Still outstanding!



More of Patti's handiwork.

## Pedestal Plaque Update!!



And so it begins! The much anticipated Podium/Pedestal Plaque program has its first two installations. With additional donors, our goal is to have up to 20, maybe more, all around Silverton.

Special thanks to **Bryan Rose and C L Rose Construction** for donating time, expertise and materials for the actual installation, and so very much appreciation to our patron, **Walt Pelett**, whose generous donation made the first two podiums possible. If you are interested in sponsoring a plaque, contact our President, Victor Madge, or any of our Board members. And be sure to take a closer look at the pioneering two!



Plaque number one installed at Water and Main Streets



Plaque number two at First and Main. Hey! This doesn't just happen on it's own!

### *Dime Toss—Continued from Page 1*

This year I want to list their names, all 20 of them: Chris Schwab assisted by her granddaughters, Aneisa and Natasha Fink, Norm English, Fred and Ruth Kaser, Victor Madge, Curator Judy Lowery, Ray Hunter, Jim Sears, Tom and Marsha Worthen, Linda McKay, Larry Thomas, Bob Foster, Molly Murphy, Ginger Shull, Fred Parkinson, Susan Morgan, and Kathy Hunter.

We didn't make the goal of \$1,000, but we brought in hundreds that will go in the Museum Improvements fund. The fund is used to keep the lawn cut, bark spread in the beds, plants bought, paint for the porch and steps, and, this year, for the partial rebuilding of our landmark Observation Post at the museum.

Thank you, everyone – you did good!



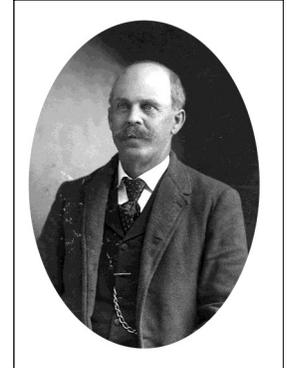
*Kathy Hunter, Chair*

P.S. The winner of the \$25 raffle was Ayva Bradford of Silverton.

And from the May, 2009 issue of our newsletter (again with an added photo), Carolyn wrote about the building that now houses Gather restaurant, another landmark that recently got its historic face lifted.

## Wolfard's Store

In an 1873 Oregon Business Directory, John M. Wolfard is listed as a merchant. He would be a merchant, hotel owner (*the North Water St. Bed & Breakfast building was a hotel operated by his second wife, Eva Mount Mascher Wolfard—ed.*), and a hop barn owner his whole life. From his birth in Ohio, February 25, 1842 until he died in Silverton June 28, 1928, he was a businessman. It would appear that he occupied the SE corner of E. Main and S. Water Streets from the 1870's, perhaps even earlier, until his death.



John M. Wolfard

According to an article June Drake wrote for the Appeal-Tribune, Sept. 1, 1950:

“.....a building erected by Ai Coolidge at Milford later moved by him in 1855 to the newly organized City of Silverton and put on Lot 1 block 1 which is at the corner of Main and Water streets where Elmer Johnson now has a store.”

“After a lapse of several years the Wolfards gained possession of this old building and store and it was then known as the J. Wolford & company. John Wolfard also owned the west half block surrounded by Water, Oak, First and Main streets, where his wife (Catherine McAlpin Wolfard) ran the Wolfard hotel located on the site of the present Hande Hardware and the Steelhammer store (*now the Wolf Bldg. and the Towne House—ed.*). Adjacent to Water street there was a yard and a row of Maple trees.

In 1885 a fire leveled the buildings on Water street from the bridge to Mac's Pool hall. The large Maple trees saved the hotel from burning.

After the fire, John Wolfard moved the old Coolidge store building from Lot 1, block 1, to the corner of Oak and Water streets where the Homeseeker's office is now located (*Barb's Hair, Etc. in 2009—ed.*). Wolfard then built the brick building now known as Johnson's store.”



In 1896, the Liberal University was founded in Silverton and its first location was the top floor of Wolfard's building.

That brick building today houses the El Toro restaurant (*in 2009—ed.*). The businesses occupying Lot 1, block 1 for the past one hundred years: a general merchandise store, Johnson's Hardware, an office supply store and an 88 Cent Store. At some point, one of the business owners added on to the original building. That will require a bit more research.

Carolyn Hutton



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*Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Community*

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

Margo Drake Walker	Christena Brooks Family
Kitk Hartman	Susan and Fritz Winkler
Paul Almquist	Diane Hill
Mylrea Estell	John and Carmen Smith
Patty Walker Riley	Susan Meyer Morgan
Bill Kleeman	

And thank you to all who have given anonymously  
to the Museum or any of its projects.  
We apologize if we have omitted anyone.

**We truly appreciate your support!!**

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

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