

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty Years of History in the Making



Museum and Office
428 South Water Street

Nancy Havens Rose, grand-daughter of Timothy Davenport, cousin of Homer, is one of our favorite people and we always enjoy hearing from her! Below is her latest correspondence with Gus Frederick, our resident expert on all things Davenport.

Saturday 9/3

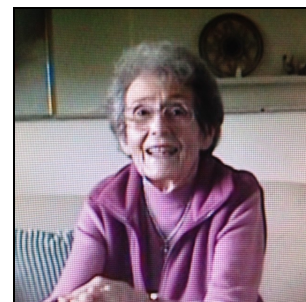
Dear Gus:

I received my Bulletin (*The Historical Society's September newsletter, Ed. note*) this afternoon and sat down to read it. The Ames name caught my attention. For many years when my sister and I were growing up, we used to drive down to Fullerton to spend the day with "Grandpa" and Grandma Ames. Mom had known them in Silverton since she was born. I never knew their given names — just Grandpa and Grandma. Chris and I didn't have any grandparents alive so it was nice to have them.

They had a huge orange grove and a big two story home with a wrap-around big porch. In the back yard was a water tower, a barn, hutches for chickens etc. We used to love to run up and down the lanes in the grove but we were warned not to go too far out as "bums" rode the tracks and were sort of scary. When dinner came too long in coming, we would eat the bran for the chickens and peel a couple of oranges.

My mom was against having her kids eat candy. But in the hall between the bedrooms was a stand with a crystal glass bowl with a heavy cut glass lid. Inside were Sees chocolate candies. We would check that the women were busy cooking and chatting in the kitchen and then we would carefully lift the heavy lid and select just one chocolate apiece and then we would run out into the back yard to eat them. Going to the Ames' was a treat. Sometimes Elvin — the son — would come with his wife. Elma, the daughter, worked in the Fullerton Library and lived with her folks. She chastised us once for going up into the attic without an adult's permission. There was a wonderful screen porch with big comfy wicker chairs. Grandpa Ames was usually sitting out on the porch.

Many years ago, after Chris had moved to Riverside from Hawaii, we decided to adventure and drove to Fullerton. What a great disappointment to find the home, tower, grove — all gone and replaced by tract houses. We were able to locate Elma who resided in a senior residence. She was absolutely delighted to see us. She was in a wheelchair but was recognizable to us. We began talking about the "olden times." The biggest shock was when she revealed to us that her mom would ask her to go to Sees Candy and get a pound of chocolates to fill the crystal bowl as "...the Girls were coming and their mom doesn't let them have candy." No wonder the bowl was always full when we arrived. Actually, Chris and I blushed when we were told this story as we thought our theft had gone off undetected!! I believe she died soon after our visit.



Nancy Havens Rose
(photo taken from DVD
Oral History 2008)

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So - I don't know if Grandpa was Louis or Sam or either????

PS. Mom told us that the Silverton crowd of young people were very close friends. Evidently Elvin had picked out Mary Delle Davenport as his future bride, unbeknownst to her!! A friend told Mary that Elvin was buying furniture for the house he and Mary would occupy when they got married. Mom had only considered him as a good buddy as she had all the others in the young crowd. She made fast tracks to straighten Elvin out without hurting his feelings — her future did not include him or marriage at that time. Not until 1916? when her 5th cousin, David Homer Morrison came to California on a vacation to meet his Davenport cousins which resulted in Mom and David marrying and going back to Wisconsin.

Isn't HISTORY fascinating !!!!

Yes, Nancy! History IS fascinating, as most of our volunteers and members are acutely aware. Super history sleuth, Carolyn Hutton, who also wrote the article Nancy was referring too, did some quick research and ascertained that “Grandpa” Ames, was Louis Ames, brother of Sam. All of our searching, however, couldn't turn up a good picture of Louis Ames. We will keep looking—because this is just too much fun!

3-25-1938 — LOU AMES
 News of the passing of Lou Ames, former prominent Silverton business man, was received here yesterday morning by his brother, Sam Ames. Mr. Ames died at his Fullerton, California home where the family has lived for the past 20 years or more. He was about 85 years of age.
 The two Ames brothers, Louis and Sam, first came to Silverton in 1877. Their names were closely identified with Silverton business for many years. They originally owned a sawmill on the Pudding River in early times. Later they conducted a hardware store on Main street and still later were co-owners of the Silverton Sash and Door factory. Sam Ames is still active in business here.
 After going to California Mr. Ames became interested in an orange grove which he has continued to own up to his death.
 He leaves a widow; one son, Elvin, and one daughter, Elma, all of Fullerton; and one brother, Sam, of this city.
 Mr. Ames was a loyal reader of the Appeal-Tribune which he was taking at the time of his death.



The Ames Building, former home to Larson-Flynn, 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.

Annual Meeting—2017

It's not too soon to be thinking about the SCHS Annual Meeting that will be held in January, 2017. We welcome your ideas for programs and we encourage members and friends to consider serving on our board as we will probably have a board position or two available. We will be getting the details finalized in a few weeks, so if you have anything you would like to contribute, e-mail us at silverton.museum@live.com, call us at 503-873-7070, or contact any of our current board members.



Curator's Corner

The last few weeks have been a busy and wonderful time for me. My daughter and I took a road trip to places that had been on my 'list' for a very long time. Leaving Silverton, Oregon on a beautiful early morning full of sunshine, I took a deep breath and felt so glad to be living in such a wonderful community. Our trip took us through six states and each and every one of them had their own special beauty. On our second day out we ended up in the small town of Hulett, Wyoming just a stone's throw from Devil's Tower. After hiking around and enjoying the beautiful landscape we drove on to Belle Fourche so that I could stand/sit on the geographic center of the United States.



Not to bore you any further, this is where I will stop with the travel ramblings because it is that museum (and we saw plenty) that I would like to share with you. Since the museum served several duties, visitors center, souvenir shop, library, as well as historical memorabilia, it definitely had a different feel from our own museum; however we share a lot of commonality.

In visiting with the volunteer, she noted that their sign-in sheet had people listed from all over the world. That particular day three people from England, a couple from Australia, along with the travelers from Oregon (Elizabeth and me). I asked her why so many people from so far away would stop in to visit and she answered: 'It is often two fold,—they want to stand on the center of the U.S., and to find out about family histories and other connections to the community. As we drove on, I kept thinking of our own role and how very often we have the same visitors, those people looking for a connection to the past of their own personal lives. It certainly is a big part of what we do every day throughout the year and hopefully a role that we will continue to provide. Each time we stopped at one of our chosen sites, where did we go? The first place we always headed was the sometimes small museums and sometimes the larger ones, only to find what we found to be true in Belle Fourche, people using the museum to find the past, whether it be their own personal past or the history that surrounds 'place'. The national geography standards has one of its five themes designated to 'Place' (that which makes a geographic area special/different).

What I began to think about is what makes Silverton what Silverton is; how is it different from the towns around it and what is our role in telling that story? Every one of the volunteers, the board, and all of our supporters work at helping the museum to tell Silverton's story. Thank you. (FYI: Yes, Virginia there is a Silverton, Wyoming! Who knew?)

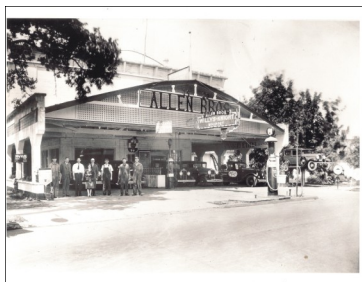
Judy Lowery

What's-it Program Returns!

After a brief hiatus, the ever popular "What's-it" Program is back again. Join us at the museum on **Monday, November 21, 2016, 7 p.m.** and see if you can stump us with your unusual item.....or maybe our panel of "experts" can help you identify that valuable relic that has been sitting in your workshop or office for years. Whatever the case, this is a good time to come to the museum and see old friends and have some fun.



SCHS Picnic — Always a Great Time!



And afterwards, Gregg Sheesley discussed and displayed his wonderful hand built model of the Allen Bros. Garage.



SCHS Participates in OHS Archive Crawl

Saturday, October 8, in Portland at the Oregon Historical Society, Susan Morgan, Fred Parkinson and Gus Frederick staffed our table and display at The Oregon Archives Crawl. While not as busy as the last time two years ago, they had a fair number of folks come up and chat. Some knew about us, Silverton, or the Garden. Many had no clue and they got MANY "Where is Silverton?" queries. And probably a couple of dozen entries for our door prize, (which as it turned out was the only one offered, and quite popular!) Scott Daniels from OHS graciously offered to ship the basket to the winner at their expense!

Diana Banning, the coordinator, sent Gus the following email:

A colleague was able to tour all three sites this year and said that the cartoons were a highlight. I'm always happy to hear that the day was a good outreach day – that's what it is all about, right?

A really good way to get the Silverton Country Historical Society out and about!



Veterans' Day 2016



Once again, the Museum is very proud to have on display items from our collection of uniforms from America's history. We will have a representation from as many as many of the different branches of the armed services that we can, all once worn by Silverton's own. The display will stay in place through Veterans' Day until the Museum closes on November 14th.

Also take this opportunity to visit Silverton's War Memorial Plaza, Fallen Heroes Monument in Town Square Park at the corner of Fske and Main Streets.

We have heard that there will be a small event presented by a group of Silverton veterans at the Veteran's Mural by the Town House at about 11:00 a.m.

The last day the Museum will be open for 2016 will be Sunday, November 13.

We will take the next couple of months to do a thorough cleaning of the buildings, re-do some of the displays and probably even a little touch-up painting and repair. We have lots of projects lined up—volunteers are more than welcome to help!

First Lady Dolls Days Are Numbered....



The last day to visit the lovely First Ladies will be Sunday, November 13. Once we close for the winter, the girls will go back in their tissue paper and boxes until they are called upon again to serve their country. We hope you can get a chance to see them before they go back to the winter White House.



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Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Community

WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.ORG

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

Charles and Judy Traaen Tom Dill and AnnMarie Neil
Richard Engeman Gregg Sheesley Vern and Pat Wolfard

And a special thank you to Edward “Jack” Geer for his donation to our
Pedestal Plaque program!

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!!



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