

# Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974  
Over Forty Years of History in the Making



Museum and Office  
428 South Water Street

## Airmail Comes to Silverton, Part Deux (Ten Years Later)

By Fred A. Parkinson  
April 2018

The Silverton Airport on Pine Street was a hubbub of activity on Thursday, May 19, 1938, as hundreds of people gazed skyward, anticipating the throaty drone of the Eaglerock biplane that would soon be heard in the distance. Spectators on that sunny day included Silverton schoolchildren, let out of class to attend the memorable event. Many local businesses temporarily closed that day to allow others to attend the festivities. Soon the roar of the Wright Whirlwind radial engine could be heard, growing louder as the airplane approached the field. According to SCHS member Ken Blust, who witnessed the event and wrote of his experience in an April 2008 SCHS newsletter article titled **Airmail Comes to Silverton**, “It was very exciting to see the airplane appear from the southwest, fly over our airport and circle to land in our grass strip.” The woman pilot soon climbed out of her cockpit to the approval of the crowd.

To commemorate twenty years of scheduled airmail service, May 15-21, 1938, was designated National Airmail Week across the United States during which time citizens were urged to mail or receive an airmail letter. To publicize the event, cities and towns were urged to create a unique graphic design or slogan, known as a “cachet,” publicizing their town which was then stamped on envelopes, or “covers,” to be posted via airmail. Although people were encouraged to mail letters anytime during the week, May 19 was designated the day when private pilots from all over the country were temporarily enlisted to carry the commemorative covers to other locations, often with great local fanfare, landing and taking off at hundreds of local airfields that would not normally have airmail service.



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The woman pilot landing in Silverton on that exciting day was well-known Oregon aviatrix Bessie Halladay, one of just a few dozen woman pilots in the country recruited to carry mail on May 19. As the 1:05p.m. takeoff time approached, Postmaster Henry Alm gave a short talk before handing pilot Bessie a mailbag containing 750 pieces of mail, which she then stowed in her plane. Many of the covers inside were signed by both Postmaster Alm and pilot Halladay. Often, the covers were empty envelopes sent merely as souvenirs of the occasion, but others actually contained letters. One such cover, signed by both Alm and Halladay, was purchased off eBay a couple of years ago. In addition to the two signatures, this cover included the sender’s name typed along the left side of the envelope: “Ina Harold, Silverton, Oregon.” For some time after it was purchased, it wasn’t readily apparent that anything was inside the envelope. Imagine the owner’s delight months later when a shape was perceived inside the envelope. It was opened and a typewritten piece of paper in pristine condition appeared. The paper was a hastily typewritten note on Ina Harold’s printed stationery, showing her address as 318 East Main Street, written to friends in Warrenton, Oregon.

*Continued on Page 3*

### Curator's Corner

Recently, several folks have come to the museum for the purpose of research and help locating information —which gave me time to reflect on all of our local history. One of the ‘stories’ that caught my eye was an article entitled “How Silverton Got Its Name” by Florence Read Bowman. The connection that Florence Bowman has to Silverton is that she can trace her ancestry to Polly Crandall. Polly Crandall was the daughter of Paul and Sarah Crandall who would later marry Thomas L. Coon. After giving birth to her son, Thomas Ray Coon on March 4, 1854 she returned to her home on Silver Creek to sell a few plots of their claim. At the land office she was asked the name of the town in which the plots were and she gave the name of Silverton from Silver Creek that ran through the land. The museum has published several ‘Power Women’ cards that denote the lives of six outstanding Silverton pioneer women and one of those features Polly Coon-Price. The other five women featured on the brochures are: Flora Davenport, Eve Coolidge, Flora Hoblitt, Zetta Schlador and Helen Kleeb. We have a former board member, Molly Murphy, to thank for spearheading the project.



The museum has been fortunate enough to have received a grant from Judy’s Party for the reframing of our two large Knute Digerness drawings. One of the drawings is of an early street scene at the corner of Oak and First Streets. A busy day in town is captured in front of the Digerness Store. The other, which was drawn on February 16, 1929, depicts several Silverton gentleman gathered around a pot-bellied stove in the early 1900’s in the Digerness store. Several of the men have been identified, which makes the drawing even more special. This award is very much appreciated and will definitely keep our history alive. Judy’s Party is an annual event and will be held this fall on October 13<sup>th</sup> at the Festhalle in Mt. Angel. The proceeds from the event benefit our community and we have been fortunate enough to have received two of those grants in the past three years.



*Judy Lowery*

  
**Museum Open**  
**Saturday and Sunday**  
**1 to 4 pm**  
**Come see us!!**



*Continued from Page 1*

The top half of the note displayed the Silverton cachet, designed by local physician Dr. Clarence Keene, with the note typed below.

Ina Harold was well suited for sending out one of the airmail covers, since she worked at the post office. Coming to Silverton from Stayton in 1918, she worked for the post office for forty years, retiring at the end of 1958 while Henry Alm was still postmaster. For a time she lived upstairs in a house on the southwest corner of East Main and Second streets, located next door to the Ames-Warnock house that would one day be moved to become our local museum. The office of Dr. A. L. V. Smith, local chiropractor, occupied the first floor of this home, and Ina also worked for Dr. Smith as a medical receptionist. The house stood directly across the street from the Anderson Hotel, which occupied the site of the present-day Columbia Bank for many years.

Living on East Main Street, as well as eventually residing in homes at the corners of South Second at Jersey Street and South Third at Lewis Street, turned out to be a good move. All three homes were just a few short blocks from the post office; significant because Ina didn't drive and would have had to walk to work. Because of her long tenure at the post office, Ina was well known to many Silverton residents. She never married but was very active in her community. Known for her involvement with the American Legion Auxillary, she served at one point as secretary. Other interests included Eastern Star and her attendance at the First Christian Church. In 1969, she was a runner-up for Woman of the Year at the annual Silverton Hospital Auxillary Ball.

Numerous individuals recall Ina as a friend of their mother or grandmother. Her friends knew her as a cheerful, hardworking woman with a constant smile who loved to work outdoors with her flowers. She also picked beans at the Wally Satern farm and boysenberries at the Robert Johnson farm. Many friends remember her little cottage at Devils Lake in Lincoln City where she spent many happy days.

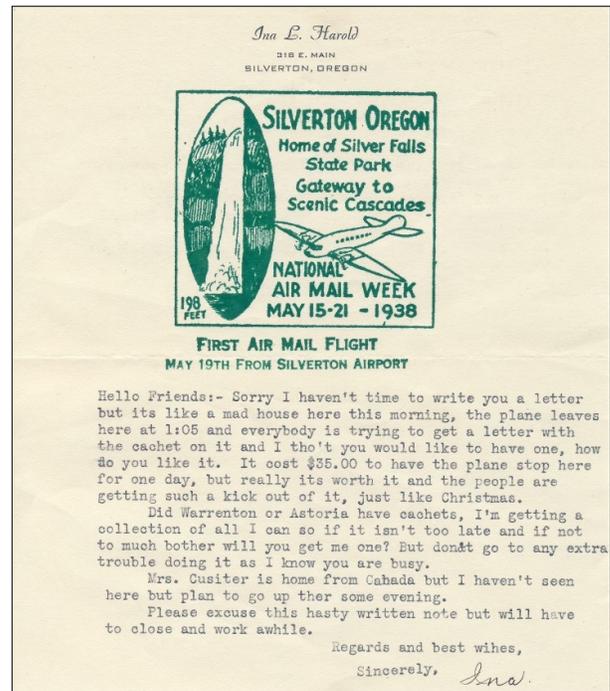
Ina apparently also enjoyed collecting ephemera. She was interested in collecting airmail cachets from other towns, asking in the note to her Warrenton friends if their town had a similar cachet they could forward to her.



Ina Harold in 1969

Additionally, a file at the museum reveals several 1935 specimens of "scrip" similar to that issued in Silverton during the Great Depression. Several towns sent samples with a request for Ida to reciprocate with Silverton scrip, while others didn't want our scrip but requested face value payment for their scrip after which they would then send their samples.

After a rich and full life, Ina Harold passed away in June 1975 at age 83. This May 19 marks the 80<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the only airmail pickup from Silverton, timely because of a request included in Ken Blust's 2008 newsletter story (at the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary) in which he appealed to members: "I have searched the internet and found many envelopes for sale with city cachets from this day but none from Silverton. It would be great to have one of these envelopes for the museum collection, so look through your old Silverton memorabilia and see if you could find one." It took ten years, but Ken's request has finally been fulfilled. The 1938 cover, boldly stamped with the Silverton cachet and signed by both Henry Alm and Bessie Halladay, has now been added to the museum's collection, an occasion made even more extraordinary because of the quaint note hastily typewritten and sent by a long-time, fondly remembered Silverton resident, the intrepid postal worker, Miss Ina Harold.



## Summer in Silverton 2018—We've got you covered!!! Coming Events!

### Silverton Hills Strawberry Festival Sunday, June 17, 2018 (Fathers' Day)



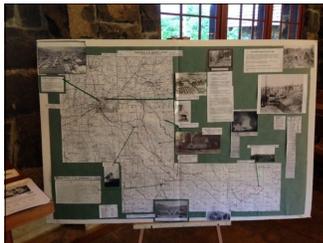
Since 1951 we have been enjoying dishes of Silverton strawberries with all the trimmings. The tradition began at the Community Center in the Silverton Hills, but now we celebrate in our local Coolidge-McClaine City Park. Bring Dad and the whole family, from 11 am to 5 pm., for an affordable whopping service of berries, biscuits and ice cream and local entertainment.

### Second Annual Fisher Mill Music Fest Saturday, July 21, 2018

At the Old Mill Park Amphitheater, behind the library parking lot on South Water Street. A great lineup of Bluegrass. Rock and Folk bands. All ages welcome, \$5 suggested donation. Food, beer wine and soft drinks will be available from local vendors. Bring the family for a picnic, bring your friends and a blanket or lawn chair and enjoy a warm summer afternoon and evening of great music beside Silver Creek!



### Historic Silver Falls Days, Silver Falls State Park Saturday and Sunday, July 7th and 8th from 10 am to 4 pm



Enjoy old-fashioned games, storytelling, antique cars, historic displays and reenactments, a blacksmith, and antique logging demonstrations.

### Homer Davenport Community Festival Friday, Saturday and Sunday August 3,4,5

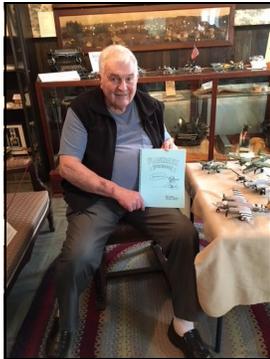


A celebration held in honor of all things Davenport and Silverton!  
Special attraction:  
**SCHS Dime toss Booth!!!**



## New Book By Jack Hande!

Jack Hande, Silverton history pundit, Historical Society mainstay and editor of “Silverton Stories From the 1920’s-’30’s and -’40’s, Volumes I to V, has just finished his latest work: “Flashback—Remembrances.” This book is all Jack—a compilation of memories of his life in Silverton and life in general. Reading it is simply a version of sitting down and visiting with Jack: there is a bit of humor, a bit of seriousness, a few puns and a dash of Hande (handy?) philosophy. Just like Jack, it is a true joy to experience. We have copies here at the Museum of this, and of all Jack’s books. I encourage you to come take a look.



A Preface and Prologue to a Forward  
(and Backward) to the Introduction

Remembrances will arise from your memory on occasion. They will take you back to relive an experience that was almost forgotten. Quite a few people tend to ignore some of these memories, because they may be unpleasant, and they hope to forget them altogether. On the other hand, time tends to lessen the impact of bad memories. Hanging on to memories can be helpful as a guidance to deal with the future.



Jack is pictured here with his book and with a sample of his amazing collection of hand carved (by him!) airplanes. Jack happily shares these miniature works of art when he hosts at the Museum, the first Saturday of every month, as well as for other special community events.

## Here We Go Again!!!!

It wouldn't be Spring if your Historical Society wasn't asking you for donations of your superfluous glassware, left-over garage sale knick knacks and unwanted souvenirs for our Dime Toss Booth at the Homer Davenport Community Festival!! We love what you have given us in the past and hope you will keep 'em coming. This is our biggest money maker of the year—not to mention a chance to let your inner kid out to have a good time tossing dimes to win valuable (?) items. Of course, you'll have to shove all the real kids out of the way! What I'm saying is, it is great fun...but we do need your donations.



Thank you!



## Homer C. Davenport International Cartoon Contest

The Homer Davenport Days Community Festival is accepting your cartoons representing a contemporary, political, economic and (or) social idea of interest. Prizes: Grand \$750; First \$500, Second \$300, Third \$200. Entries will be judged on artistic skill, implied message and over all appeal. All entries must be received by 5:00 pm Friday, July 27, 2018. Go to <http://homerdavenport.com/> for more information.



Can you name 4 public parks located in the City limits?

1. Coolidge - McClaine Park
  2. Old Mill Park
  3. Lincoln Park
  4. Town Square Park
- (Updated hopefully accurately, from a 1991 "How well do you know Silverton" quiz for the Fox Tymes)



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*Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Community*

**WWW.SILVERTONMUSEUM.ORG**

**Thank you to our new and renewing members,  
our generous donors and to anyone who has  
given anonymously to the Museum or any of its projects—**

Cleone Beutler  
Linda McKay  
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Norma Halseth  
Susan Beale

Justine Fogarty  
Dawn Juliano  
Sue Brown  
Russell Gould  
Jules A. Martino  
Marlene Hanson  
Rick Lewis

Steve and Cheryl Wareham  
Bob and Marilyn Dedrick  
Trish and Craig Jensen  
Aileen Conrad  
Larry Thomas  
Carolyn Hutton

**We are so grateful for the support of all our members and donors!!**



### **Arrival**

**There is still time to visit the Willamette  
Heritage Center Special Exhibit  
Arrival: Stories of Migration, Immigration  
and Journeys in the Mid-Willamette  
Valley—Ends Saturday, April 21, 2018**

### **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!**