

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty Years of History in the Making



*Museum and Office
428 South Water Street*



SCHS Picnic!

Saturday, September 22

Coolidge-McClaine Park

From noon till we're full!

Bring a couple of dishes to share.

Beverages, plates and cutlery provided.

Visit with good friends.

“Hartley” School Bell Has New Home

Some time ago the family of Tom Hartley, local farmer and banker, donated an old school bell to the Historical Society. This bell has a pretty interesting story....but first let me tell you a bit about Tom Hartley.

Tom was born in December, 1927, to Alvin and Minnie (Davis) Hartley and lived in the Silverton area all of his life. His grandparents and great-grandparents all came to Oregon over the Oregon Trail—the Whitlocks and the Engles in 1845, the Davis's in 1851, the Mosers and Whites in 1852, the Porters in 1853 and the Hartleys in 1865. The Hartleys purchased 320 acres in the Silverton hills and the farm stayed in the family until recent years.

Tom attended Porter School (more about that in a bit) and graduated from Silverton High School in 1945. He played football, basketball and baseball. At Linfield College, Tom met his wife, Doris Martin of Salem. At the time of his death in 2007, they had been married for 54 years. Doris and his two daughters, Janice and Karen, survived him.

At first Tom worked on the family farm, but back problems led him to choose a new career as an agricultural representative for the then Commercial Bank. He stayed there until he retired. Tom and Doris were active in the community, most importantly to us here at the museum they volunteered many hours with the Historical Society, with Tom serving as President of the organization in 1996-97.

Continued on page 3

Curator's Corner

As you read through the newsletter you will see just how busy this last month has been. Chris and her happy helpers have had a very successful yard sale and YES, there is still more to go, but that will need to wait for another time.



We also have been working on rearranging the depot and that has meant looking at the present displays through new eyes.



The library has added some of our collection of early schoolroom memorabilia and Hannah Olsen's marble collection is part of that display. Those marbles are a hit every spring when we have our school tours and luckily some of the students actually know the story behind marbles and their use in school ground games. Speaking of schools (hmmm! I bet you are wondering where this one is going) my other volunteer passion is

the Silver Falls School District's Middle School After School Activity Program better known as ASAP. Thursday the 20th of September has been designated as the Community ASAP day and is our major fundraiser for the year. The businesses that have been generous donors will sport a Gold Star and ASAP sponsor poster in their windows. If you have a chance and are able to visit one of the businesses please thank them for their support. Many have given items for a raffle that will be drawn at 6:00 Thursday evening and you are welcome to buy tickets for the raffle items during the afternoon of the 20th and pay special attention to the banner across Main Street to see the major sponsors. Many of the students that we serve are the very students who have visited our museum with the local school tours. ASAP gives this critical age student a safe place to receive homework help, a complete meal and activities that encourage collegiality.

Recently, I got a call from Chris Gentzkow Fruin who wanted to know if we would like to add a charcoal drawing that her mother Marcella had done of the Gallon House Bridge in 1964. My answer was yes and within the week she came to deliver the print. I am so happy to be able to add this to our collection and I think it will add to the model of the bridge which is already on display. When I first started teaching in Silverton I had one of the Gentzkow daughters in my room. When I told my mother who my students were she asked me if remembered Dick Gentzkow? She explained that when I was a very little girl I watched him play baseball at McGinnis Field. Actually, what mother forgot was just how little I was at the time. I have a very soft spot for Marcella since she spent hours with me as I tried to develop my calligraphy skills, giving me pointers and always making positive suggestions. So, the connection to the Gentzkow family is a personal one for me but also with the addition of this piece Marcella's talent will be enjoyed by those who visit our museum.



Judy Lowery

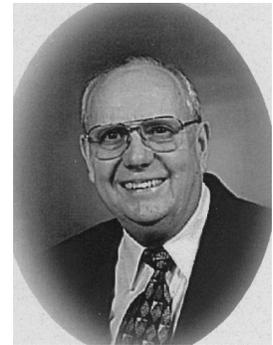
SCHS Dime Toss—2018

Another fun, successful year at the Homer Davenport Community Festival! We couldn't do it if it weren't for the community support, first in helping us collect so many cups, mugs, vases, serving dishes, etc., and then, coming out to share your dime-tossing expertise. See you next year!!



New Home For School Bell —*continued from page 1*

So, back to the bell.....The bell originally belonged to the Ross School (also known as the “little red schoolhouse”), which was located on Timber Trail about 1/4 mile from Powers Creek Loop Road. Ross School was built in 1880 on land donated by Enoch Ross. In 1907 Ross School District consolidated with the newly built Porter School. This new building was located at the intersection of Powers Creek Loop Road and Porter Road and replaced the earlier Porter School which had been across the road from the L.O. Hadley Farm since around 1880. ([History of Early Schools in Silverton Country](#), by Minnie Engeman)



Following the consolidation, the Ross School was torn down and its school bell was moved to the new Porter School. When Porter School was torn down in the mid-1940's, Tom Hartley helped with the demolition. A bit of a dilemma evolved...what to do with the bell? Tom agreed to take it and store it temporarily at his parent's place on Silver Falls Highway.

Eventually Tom married and moved to his own place....and never got around to taking the bell. One day he stopped to visit his parents and got there just as a group of gypsies were loading the bell into their truck. Tom's mother had sold it.....but, fortunately, Tom was able to recover it! The bell hung by the back door at the Hartley home on Eureka and the Hartley girls would ring it when they came home from school. Doris Hartley would ring it to call Tom in from the “back 40.” After Tom died, Doris wanted a home for it where it could be appreciated and protected, and the Museum was a good fit.



We've had it for a few years now, trying to determine the best place to hang it so it could be enjoyed by all. And now here it is in its new home....

Silverton Snippets from the Past
By Norm English

The following stories (generally 'front page' stories) were gleaned from the Silverton Country Historical Society's extensive collection of the Silverton Appeal newspapers.

Note that the terms 'newsworthy' and 'human interest' as applied to newspaper stories change through the years

100 Years Ago

Mike Unknowingly Parts Company with Greenbacks

"Mike Zeis lost two five dollar bills on the street in this city a few evenings ago. He had just disposed of a few dozen eggs and deposited the green backs in his weasel skin. When he reached the corner of Main and Water streets, he had occasion to draw forth his pocket book and set in motion some silver that was keeping company with the bank notes. In his haste to be moving, darkness and a high wind prevented his seeing the bills flutter out when he withdrew the silver and consequently were not missed until the owner reached his home. Mike says so far as he is concerned, there will be no more mixing of paper money with silver." (January 24, 1919)

75 Years Ago

Hubcap Lands on Langley's Porch

"Mr. and Mrs. Ed Langley might well have been of the opinion that the Japs had arrived Saturday night and that bombardment had begun. As they were sitting quietly in their home about ten o'clock, a loud bang on the front of their house startled them. Going out to investigate they met a motorist who explained that he had lost his hubcap in going over the railroad tracks nearby." (March 5, 1943)

50 Years Ago

Missing Dog, Gone a Year, Appears Again

"A little dog, which disappeared a year ago from the Ray Berry home at 206 Fifth Street, mysteriously re-appeared Saturday. A birthday party for Mrs. Norman Elliott was in progress at the Berry home when 'Corky' suddenly appeared at the patio door. The fluffy white dog, about six years old, disappeared almost exactly a year ago... The family searched for weeks, but never turned up a clue. And they still have no idea where Corky has been for the past year." (May 16, 1968)

SCHS Display at Silverton Library

In response to a recent request from Silver Falls Library Director, Christy Davis, museum volunteers collected items from Silverton's early schools to have on display in the Library for the month of September. Please try to stop by the Library and see this little slice of Silverton history.



Getting Ready For The Next Group Of Historic Pedestal Plaques

The Historical Society has identified eight more sites that we will soon be commemorating with an historic plaque. So far we have patrons or sponsors for all but two. These remaining sites are pictured below. If you would like to sponsor a plaque, in full or partially (at least half), please get in touch with a board member or contact the Historical Society at 503-873-7070 or email us at: silverton.museum@live.com. The projected cost per plaque is \$800. If you have a particular Silverton icon that you do not see pictured here, but one that you would like to help memorialize, contact us. If we can locate a good image it may be a candidate for a future siting.



Anderson Hotel



Inman Building (Corner of First and Oak)

Oregon Archives Crawl Saturday, October 20, 11am - 3pm

Join us as we once more participate in the annual Oregon Archives Crawl. This year's theme is "Changing Attitudes"—archives document how communities, beliefs, practices, and preferences have changed over the years. Historical records and photos can shed new light on common beliefs or explain how things have happened. With more than 35 organizations joining in, you are guaranteed to discover something new!



Visitors can start the Crawl at either the City of Portland Archives and Records Center, the Multnomah County Library, or the Oregon Historical Society. At each site, you'll find representatives from archives, special collections, and heritage organizations. "Passports" will be available at each site to help guide you and provide a list of organizations. SCHS will again be located in the lobby of the Oregon Historical Society. All are welcome!

Pictured here are Fred Parkinson and Gus Frederick at a prior Archives Crawl.

SCHS Yard Sale Great Success!!

In our on-going quest to find room for more Silverton history memorabilia, we combed through the museum basement to find items that we have been keeping that were not assigned to a collection, not related to Silverton history, or duplicates of items we do have. We do love old stuff—but in all practicality, do we need that unidentified salt and pepper shaker from Des Moines, Iowa? Or 35 copies of a program from the Centennial, when we already have 10? So....we had a yard sale!! Besides some interesting items, we also had loose-leaf duplicates of our bound collection of Silverton newspapers. They were a big hit, of course. We had so much fun and met so many nice people, we may do it again next year!!





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Celebrating Over 40 Years in the Community

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**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.
You're the best!!—**

Bill Kleeman	Patty Walker Riley
Diane Hill	Susan Meyer Morgan
Edward (Jack) Geer	Lori McLaughlin
Marilyn Frick	Jane Flury
Charles and Judy Traaen	

Historic Podium Plaque Program — Nancy Bleakney

In Memory of Sam Linn—

Bob and Donna Eberle	Alan and Kathy Brown
Ronna M. Vaughan	Andrea and Jeffrey Redinger
Poppy and David Shell	Linda and Greg Bachand
Judy Duncan	Dennis Hadley
Ioka Farms	Norman and Kathleen Charpilloz
Bob and Tootie Marcum	

Your S.C.H.S. Board

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Tracy Duerst	Treasurer
Judy Lowery	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Fred Parkinson	
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Corey Christensen	
Russ Gould	

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

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