

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974
Over Forty Years of History in the Making



Museum and Office
428 South Water Street

Happy New Year!!

SCHS Annual Meeting, Saturday, January 19, 2019

Please join us at our annual meeting to be held this year at the Silverton Grange Hall
201 Division St NE, Silverton
(Go about 1.5 miles south from the Museum on Water Street
turn Left on Division Street)

The usual (never boring!) business meeting will be followed by
this year's program—a presentation of a new film by Silverton's own Michael Turner.

And of course time for visiting and REFRESHMENTS!

After the Life of Vesper Geer By Michael Turner 16 minutes, 2019

In 2011, director Michael Turner started *The Life of Vesper Geer*, a biographic documentary about a local woman that would premiere on Oregon Public Broadcasting in 2013 and that *The Oregonian* called "Rich for the eyes, ears, and memory."

While creating the film, Turner stumbled upon a secret that Vesper took to her grave, and decided not to include it in Vesper's film. This secret took on a life of it's own, and is the subject of a new short film called "After the Life of Vesper Geer." It's a story about how the past is not frozen in time, but continues to touch our lives in the present.

Michael Turner is a past Oregon Media Arts Fellow. His films have shown at cinemas and universities around the world and have been translated into many different languages. He lives in Scotts Mills with his wife and two-year-old daughter.



Curator's Corner

This past year I have been able to travel far and wide, well far and wide for me. Late in May and early June my daughter and granddaughter traveled to several countries in Europe, beginning with Amsterdam, then Koln, Paris and Brussels and back to Amsterdam before flying home.



At each stop we found ourselves in museums hoping to learn about the people and places that we were visiting. Silverton's museum is not Anne Frank's, or the Louvre, but it has many things in common. The people who come to visit are doing exactly what we were doing only in a much smaller way. They are looking for connections. Many have connections to family here presently, but many are looking for their historical connections.

Early in December, Elizabeth and I took a trip to Florida to visit the Everglades and the Keys. Again, museums were at the top of the list; how else are you going to learn about the area you are visiting? My bucket list includes as many National Parks that I can get to before I am not able to travel out of the house. I had often thought that the Everglades was way out of sight for me, but I was proven wrong. Once in Key West Elizabeth and I visited Ernest Hemmingway's home, with the six toed cats, Harry Truman's Little White House and Tennessee William's museum. At each one, I asked the volunteers what it was that they were eager to share and over and over again the answer was they had a passion to share the 'story' of that 'place'. I thought about each and every one of our wonderful volunteers who keep the doors open and answer the many questions that our visitors ask and just how lucky Silverton is to have this wonderful museum and meet the needs of all who come to research, visit and just look around.

At Tennessee William's museum the volunteer that day happened to be a former teacher so you can imagine the questions that I had for her. I asked her how they managed to assemble all of the items for accession and how they decided what was to be kept and what was to be stored for possible later use. Her answer fits what our volunteers do every day. She said that they keep what is the essence of the life and times of Williams. Thankfully, all of our volunteers do that every day for Silverton history and this year I am deeply grateful for our volunteers who have given over 1,100 hours of work for that purpose.

Happy New Year to each and every one of our donors, volunteers, board members, those who give time and energy and especially to Chris Schwab and Tracy Duerst who give countless hours to make the museum run smoothly.

Judy Lowery

In recent months the Silverton community and the Historical Society lost two very valued members. Marilyn Frick, lifelong Silvertonian and a presence well-known to many SUHS students, and Kay LaLone, talented artist and volunteer with the Historical Society.

We will miss them—our thoughts are with their families.

What's going on at the museum? Come see us in March and find out!!



Willamette Heritage Invitational Exhibit January 24 to April 20, 2019

Every year Willamette Heritage Center invites local heritage organizations to share their stories, their research and artifacts based upon a unifying theme. It is a great way to look at an historical topic through a variety of perspectives and lenses. This year's theme is:

*Romance: Stories of Love and Passion
in the Mid-Willamette Valley*

Once again SCHS is participating in the event—and if you know your Silverton history, you will know that our big love story is.....





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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!!**

Betty Layne	Citizen's Bank
Molly Murphy	Andy and Lou Nelson
Ed and Karen McKenzie	Linda McClure Wiley
Kelly and Jim Miller	Kirk Hartman
Andy and Rhonda Bellando	Pamela Lindholm Levy
Sherry Hoefel	
Robert and Marilyn Dedrick	
Walt Pelett	

In Memory of Dr. Jesse McClure
Linda C. Wiley

SCHS Podium Plaque Program
Margo Drake Walker

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

We hope to see you at the Annual Meeting!

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!**