

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty Years of History in the Making

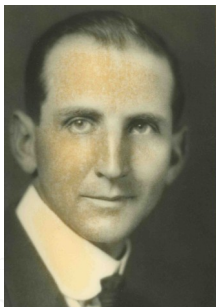


Museum and Office
428 South Water Street

A Drake Legacy-Silverton in Pictures

By Fred A. Parkinson

April 2019



June Drake was a master. Although not a founding father of Silverton, Drake is generally acknowledged as one of the premier custodians of early Silverton history, even as he chronicled our town in pictures during the first half of the twentieth century. Additionally, through his exquisite landscape photography, he was the driving force behind the establishment of Silver Falls State Park in the 1930s, a pursuit that took years to achieve. He also preserved much of Silverton's identity by penning a series of newspaper articles relating to our history, much of which he had lived, during Silverton's Centennial Celebration in 1954.

One of the highlights of his career occurred in 1924 with the publication of *Silverton Oregon and Its Environs In Pictures*, an elaborate forty-page visitors guide highlighting the merits of living in Silverton. Drake and Mahlon Hoblitt, the publisher of the Silverton Appeal newspaper, collaborated to publish the booklet. It stands as a remarkable snapshot in time of 1924 Silverton and is an exceptional historical resource today. Photos of street scenes, elegant homes, prominent businesses, schools, churches, and more, grace its pages, portraying a vibrant, modern community. Over two-thirds of the buildings depicted in the book are still standing today. There are several copies to view at the museum, so come visit us to take a look at this Silverton jewel!

Some of the photographs were enhanced for publication by a unique technique Drake employed to get the most detail possible. But first, a little background.....

In film photography, a picture is taken (exposed) by opening a hole (aperture) in a lens to let a fixed amount of light through for a precise amount of time, to hit light-sensitive film, ultimately producing a negative. To print the negative, it is placed in an enlarger through which the image is projected for a specific amount of time onto light-sensitive paper and then dipped into photographic chemicals to develop the photograph. The longer the enlarger exposure time, the darker the developed photo will be. Generally speaking, negatives with an average exposure, with equal amounts of light and dark areas, will print well, but if they have areas that are either too light or too dark, detail could be lost in those parts. There were common procedures that could be used during printing to improve the quality of a photo. "Burning" masked off certain areas of the frame to enhance detail in light areas such as the sky; "dodging" brought out detail in the shadows. These methods achieved consistent detail throughout the image. It takes experience to dodge or burn in the darkroom while leaving no trace a photo has been enhanced.

While June Drake undoubtedly had the skill to successfully enhance his photos by burning and dodging, he apparently employed a different technique for the 1924 booklet to show detail in the darkest portions of his photos.

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Curator's Corner

There has been a lot going on at the museum lately and one exciting addition is that we have 'joined' Silverton's First Friday events.

Several months ago at our monthly board meeting we discussed how we could reach out to the public to make our presence more visible. Several ideas were floated and one was to host the museum on First Friday nights. It was agreed that not only would we give people a chance to visit the museum other than the weekends that we are open but it would



Visitors enjoyed the talents of Matt Alex

also increase interest and possibly increase membership. First Friday in April and May have been our trial events and they have been a success. One good thing is that the weather has cooperated making it more inviting. We have had snacks and beverages in the depot for folks to enjoy and with the parking lot door open that has made it easy for people to 'see' us as they walk by. It has been nice to hear the chatter and see folks sitting around the dining room table talking and asking questions about the museum and what we do in the community. Thanks to our loyal volunteers who help with hosting, we have had over 40 people stop by on our first two evenings. We plan on continuing our First Friday



events throughout the summer. During the May event we had visitors from Washington who had come to the area watch a square dancing competition and had noticed the sandwich board that we had put up near the Hartman building and decided to take the time to visit; the same applies to two visitors from Corvallis, one of whom was from Houston, Texas. This has been well worth the time and effort, that once again, our volunteers put into 'getting our word out there'.



Norm English and Gene Pfeifer pored over our aerial photograph collection



Road weary pioneer woman served as hostess

Just a few days ago, Barbara Dettwyler brought several items in for consideration for accession. One brought back so many memories, and that being a set of ice skates that her husband Fred had used as a young man. The Dettwyler family home was on the banks of the Pudding River and many times in the winter it would freeze and the kids would skate. I knew about this having gone to Central Howell School with his younger brothers. I always wished I could have joined them but never was able. The special story that I heard from both the brothers and Barbara was that they would also have bonfires at night. Barbara and I were trying to remember that last time that it would have been possible to skate on

Judy Lowery



*Historic Pet Parade
Saturday, May 18
Begins at Coolidge McClaine Park
at 10 am
Don't miss it!!!!*

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A Drake Legacy - Silverton in Pictures

While examining some old photographs at the museum recently, we came across several pages of photographs that appeared to be the actual photographs used to prepare the 1924 booklet. Photos were pasted onto back-grounds just as they appeared in the 1924 publication. Running fingers over the photos, we noticed that several of them were not smooth. Upon closer examination, we discovered the technique Drake used to enhance the photos for publication.

When it came time to prepare the photos for printing, Drake developed two versions of the same photo, varying the enlarger exposure time, and then cut out lighter portions showing more detail of one photo and pasted the cutout onto the exact same section in the other photograph in order to improve details in shadow areas of the photo.

Of particular interest is a photograph depicting the relatively new (built in 1922) Silverton Service Station still standing today at the S.E. corner of North Water and Oak Streets, although in a somewhat different form. This photo has a lighter cutout pasted over the shadowed area to show more detail under the arched awnings in the photo. Interestingly enough, the photo can be dated within three months. Not noticeable, unless one either runs a finger across the original photo or examines it with a magnifying glass, is a small square sign, just right of center that reads "Miller & Cooley," undoubtedly referring to the station's current proprietors. However, there was no such sign ever installed on the building. In the days before Photoshop, June Drake employed creative license to glue a small hand-lettered piece over the original "Coast Tires" sign that was actually there. Little did he know that the sign's accuracy would be short-lived. Among the *many* owners of the station between 1922 and 1929, (more about that in a future story) newspaper reports confirm that owners Jack Miller and Wallace (Doc) Cooley operated the station for only three months, from January 1924 to April 1924.



1924 Silverton Service Station showing Miller & Cooley sign



Different station photo showing Coast Tires sign

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Although photography has changed a lot in the last one-hundred years, the basic processes still remain. To take a picture in digital photography, the amount of light striking a digital sensor (rather than film) is still controlled to produce an image file. There are digital equivalents to dodging and burning, performed on a computer rather than in a darkroom that take some finesse to accomplish successfully. With his innovative procedures, June Drake might be considered ahead of his time. As a community, Silverton is certainly better off for his efforts.

Reminder!!
 Your Museum is open now until after
 Veterans' Day
 Saturdays and Sundays — 1 to 4 pm
 And occasional First Fridays
 Come see us!

Special Membership Drive!!!!
 New members can join in 2019
 for \$5.00!!
 Includes newsletter, unlimited visiting
 privileges,
 advance notice of special projects
 Tell your friends

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

The following story was printed ‘without an actual headline’

William C. Conner, editor of the Harrisburg Bulletin, visited Silverton last week and his impression of the city is expressed as follows in the issue of January 30.

“Monday afternoon we enjoyed an auto ride over to Silverton, and believe me, there is some town, 3,500 population, 4 miles of paved streets, two big sawmills and the largest flour mill in the state, all running full blast, new bungalows going up, storerooms being enlarged and not a ‘for rent’ or ‘for sale’ placard in evidence anywhere. A fine town and a progressive, prosperous people.” (February 7, 1919)

75 Years Ago

Alarm Clock Thief Delivers Mortal Blow

“Monty DePeel of the Richfield service station faces the future with dark foreboding. Some unkind soul stole his alarm clock Wednesday night, and he is going to have to rely on the roosters until he gets it back. DePeel heard a rustling in the house during the late evening hours, but did not discover the clock gone until midnight, when he was ready to retire. Alarm clocks being as scarce as hen’s teeth, DePeel is offering a \$5 reward for the return of the clock, with no questions asked.” (March 3, 1944)

50 Years Ago

Half-Century Old Report Card Found in Closet

“More than a half-century ago, someone hung a report card under a wall covering in the clothes closet at a home at 202 Cowing. Last week, Mr. and Mrs. Clair Neagle, who live at the home, discovered the report card during a remodeling project.

The card was for Miss Ethel Haggerty...who appears to have been a pretty good student. The card was from the 1915-16 school year at Silverton High School, when Howard M. James was superintendent. And to give an idea of subject matter in those days, Miss Haggerty had a 96 in Arithmetic, 93 in English, 96 in Latin, 96 in History, 95 in Civics, a ‘C’ in Music, a 92 in Biology and a 94 in Deportment.” (April 24, 1969)



SCHS Dime Toss

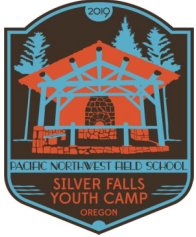


Just a reminder--it’s never too soon to start collecting your glassware donations for our Dime Toss booth. We do tend to get lots of coffee mugs and wine glasses which is fine, but we will take anything that you can get a dime to land in. We really appreciate the support of our members and friends to help us ensure that a fun time will be had by all!



2019 Pacific Northwest Preservation Field School Silver Falls State Park Youth Camp Site - September 2019

Beginning in 1935, the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) completed several projects throughout the 9,000-acre State Park including boundary surveys, trails, parking areas, and building and shelter construction. In 1938, the National Park Service oversaw the CCC's construction of a new Recreation Demonstration Area at Silver Falls State Park, which is now known as the Silver Falls Youth Camp. The PNW Preservation course will enable students to participate in restoration projects on a variety of historic buildings in the camp. Activities will include masonry repair, log work, window rehabilitation, roof repairs, condition assessments, cultural landscape investigations, and specialized historic building maintenance. Local professionals will provide lectures on the history, theory, and practice of cultural resource management and historic preservation.



September 3-6: Specialized Preservation Maintenance

September 8-13: Materials Intensive: Wood

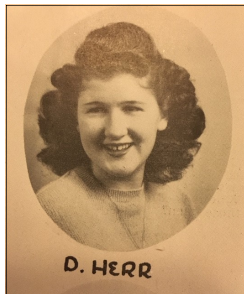
September 15-20: Preservation Primer

Participants live, learn, and work at the site throughout the session. Tuition includes food, lodging, lectures, and field trips. Undergraduate and graduate credits are available. All participants will receive a Certificate of Completion confirming their basic knowledge of historic preservation theory and practice.



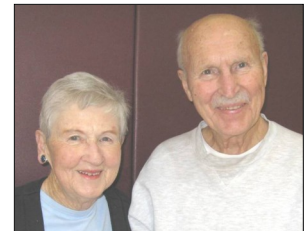
The School of Architecture & Environment in the College of Design at the University of Oregon is nationally recognized for its innovation and sustainability research including the design of buildings, interiors, landscapes and communities. It is so exciting that they have chosen the camp as one of their projects.

For more information and applications, visit archenvironment.uoregon.edu/PNWFS



We are so very sad to report on the passing of one of our dearest members --
Dolores Herr Blust.

Dolores' roots in Silverton go deep--she grew up here, her dad, Gus Herr, had a barber shop here, she graduated from Silverton High School in 1946 and she married Ken Blust in 1947. As happens in life, they moved away to travel all over the world. But as Carolyn Hutton said in 2008 when they were profiled for our newsletter, we were truly blessed when these two moved back to Oregon. Dolores showed her support for the museum almost



immediately when she began co-hosting with Jack Hande every month and she...and Ken...could be found at many member meetings, annual meetings, and any number of museum projects. I don't think they missed a chance to work at the Dime Toss! And Dolores would be right in with the rest of us on museum cleaning days and leading tours of third graders. She and Ken loved to share their memories of growing up in Silverton and, boy, did she love the Red Sox! I first met Dolores when we both acted as hosts for the 2005 Home Tour -- I found her to be the sweetest, friendliest person --a true delight.



We were all very sad when they moved to Virginia to be near their daughter and now we are even sadder.





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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!!**

Marilyn Frosig	Gene Pfeifer
Trish and Craig Jensen	Tom Dill and Ann Marie Neil
Pat Gemaehlich	Maggie McBride
Andrew Ulven	Norm English
Fred Parkinson	

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



**Silverton Hills Strawberry Festival 2019
Fathers Day - Sunday, June 16 - 11 am till 5 pm
Coolidge-McClaine Park**



A beloved tradition since 1951 - the best strawberries served over
homemade biscuits and garnished with ice cream
all for \$6.00 ! (including seconds of strawberries)
Anyone under the age of 2 or over 80 is free!

Your S.C.H.S. Board

Victor Madge	President
Norm English	Past-Pres.
Gus Frederick	Vice-Pres.
Chris Schwab	Secretary
Tracy Duerst	Treasurer
Judy Lowery	Curator
Kathy Hunter	Membership
Fred Parkinson	
Ruth Kaser	
Corey Christensen	
Russ Gould	

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