

# Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making



Museum and Office  
428 South Water Street

## We're Still Here!

Well, in a socially-distancing sort of way....



Judy and I have been taking turns checking in at the Museum--collecting the mail and handling telephone messages. Judy is working on a grant application--we want to have some restoration work done on the First Ladies and also see about continuing with the collection by adding Hillary Clinton, Laura Bush, Michelle Obama, and Melania Trump. And I have been working on displays and puttering, most likely looking for large pieces of furniture for us to move....



We are still available to answer your questions about Silverton's history and we are anxiously awaiting the time when we can be open again.

### Home Davenport Community Festival

Even though the August 2020 Homer Davenport Community Festival is in "Covid-19 limbo" we are trying to be ready for anything. Our Dime Toss booth always needs its regular feeding, whether we use it up this year or next. And since you probably have been at home cleaning closets and cupboards, we're asking if you find any cool glassware that we could use, we would love to take it off your hands. You can leave it on our porch or let us know where we can pick it up.



*The More Things Stay the Same.....*

Driving through Silverton these days you will notice a huge change. Several little shops are not open for business as well as all of our eateries. 'Take Out' only on several signs has become the new normal for our small town, the entire state, as well as most other states. Wondering how the Spanish Flu had impacted Silverton, I did a little research. Since the museum does not have copies of the 1918 Appeal, I used the 1919 edition to see how our town had responded. The following articles show the many issues that are a striking parallel to today's pandemic. The one article that interested me the most was the one discussing the social gatherings. So many of our local celebrations have been cancelled, schools are closed, we stand six feet apart, we wear masks, and washing hands has become an obsession.

Silverton Appeal - January 1919

**INFLUENZA RAGES FOLLOWING GATHERINGS**

Three Days After Public Gatherings Influenza Breaks Out in Another Wave.

A careful analysis of all data obtainable in regard to the present epidemic of influenza shows the following striking features, from which most valuable deductions can be drawn in considering control measures:

Three days after an unusual gathering of people there is an increase in the number of cases reported. Thus, every Thursday is high because of Saturday and Sunday minglings; the 28th of December was high following Christmas; the 3rd and 4th of January were high following New Year's festivities. Therefore, dances constitute the greatest number of cases. Dances therefore should be prohibited during the epidemic.

The waves of the epidemic run in about three week intervals. A study of the causes of this and the matter of carriers, indicate that many cases remain carriers for a period of two or three weeks. The greatest number of severe cases during a wave are able to be up and around in about three weeks and are unconsciously spreading the disease causing the next wave. Therefore, in addition to the ten days quarantine, each recovered case should wear a mask for a period of two or three weeks in the presence of unexposed persons, and all persons coming in close contact with the sick should wear masks. Masks, to be effective, should be sufficiently large to completely cover the nose and mouth. They should have at least eight layers of gauze and should be sterilized after three hours use. Sterilizing is easily accomplished by dropping the mask in boiling water for ten minutes.

It has been discovered that the disease is being spread to a greater extent than has been realized by utensils used in eating and drinking. Therefore all dishes, cups, glasses, knives, and forks, etc., used in eating or drinking in all public places, and in all private homes or public institutions wherever there are cases of influenza, should be thoroughly sterilized by boiling 15 minutes.

Of 94 physicians, 48 comment favorably on the use of vaccine, especially in preventing the graver complications; some are quite enthusiastic and 46 make no comment.

The report from the Bremerton navy yard, using the same vaccine, is as follows: Number inoculated, 4,212, of this number 144 contracted influenza, 112 of whom the onset began before the inoculation was completed. There were no deaths. There were 8,486 who were not vaccinated. There occurred 1,409 cases of influenza in this group, 96 of whom died.—State Board of Health.

However, the lessons to be learned from the past will help us to prepare for the future:

*'Those who do not remember the past are condemned to repeat it.'*

George Santayana.

*'Our greatest glory is not in never falling, but in rising every time we fall.'*

Confucius.

*History, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived, but if faced with courage, need not be lived again.*

Maya Angelou

**FLU SITUATION AGAIN BAD IN THIS CITY**

The flu situation is again looking bad in this city, a number of deaths having occurred from it recently. The quarantining of the homes is not being carried out as planned, as it is reported some residents resent the placing of the placards on their homes.

The school board is considering closing the schools and if the situation remains the same, in all probability these will be closed Friday night.

We hope all of our friends and families are staying safe and healthy.

April 2020







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*Celebrating Over 45 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!!**

Larry and Carol Zetterberg  
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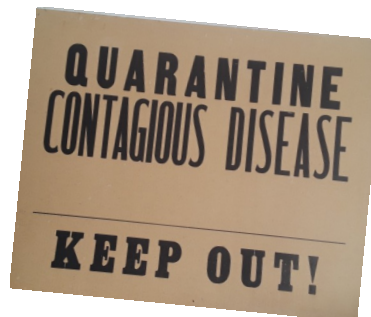
Bob and Susan McGowan  
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**We are so grateful for the support of all our members and donors!!**

**Stay healthy and safe!**



During the influenza epidemic of 1918, Portland converted one of its newest and largest buildings, the Portland Auditorium, into a temporary hospital.



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newsletter, we appreciate  
your prompt response.  
Thank you!**