

# Silverton Country Historical Society

*Established in 1974*

*Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making*



*Museum and Office  
428 South Water Street*

## Welcome Back!

We are opening Sunday, July 5, 1 to 4 pm

(Then regular hours: 1 to 4 pm Saturdays and Sundays)

## Welcome to the Silverton Country Historical Society Museum

The following safeguards are in place so you may better enjoy your visit:

The number of guests allowed in the Museum at one time will be limited to 10 or fewer. Please adhere to the 6' social distancing guidelines;

Our docents will be wearing face coverings-- if you don't not have one, we will have some available;

A map of the Museum is provided so you can tour on your own, but please feel free to ask the docent questions;

We will have hand sanitizer available at various points in the Museum;

Public restroom access will be limited at this time;

We will be increasing our sanitizing/cleaning before and after each tour in public spaces;

We ask that all guests sign our guest book, including a contact source.

We will ask you NOT to visit if you answer yes to any of the following:

- Had fever/chills in past 14 days
- Had respiratory symptoms (difficulty breathing, cough, shortness of breath)
- Been in contact with a COVID-19 infected person
- Traveled outside the US in the past 14 days

## Curator's Corner

One of the happy notes for this baseball fan came last week when baseball announced they would begin to play ball! Of course they will play a limited schedule and with no fans in the stands, but at least my summer will not be completely without my favorite teams even though it will be via the television. I still remember my fourth grade year and being able to listen to the World Series on the radio that Mrs. Mitchell had on her desk during class time. We would argue during recess who was the best team, the best all-time player and which team would win. I was a devout Dodgers and Red Sox fan and really didn't get the idea that there were two different leagues until that final series. There was always someone to remind me that the American League was much better than the National League but I didn't care because I had favorites in each league.



I am also on the Silverton Alumni Board and at our last meeting was given several small bottles of dirt from McGinnis Field. George Wiesner had collected the dirt in 1955 when the baseball field was turned into the high school's football field. He thought it would be a great idea for a fund raiser for the board which didn't work out. Since no one else wanted them, I gladly took the box of bottled dirt home since I have a sentimental attachment to the field. Interesting information, about the field that still bears the McGinnis name and hosts our high school football team, comes from reading about its early beginnings.

At first the Silverton Red Sox played ball in the Eureka Ball Park as a softball team and were known as the Silver Falls Timber Company team. Then in 1936, Bill 'Mac' McGinnis organized the first Red Sox Baseball team. He was the superintendent of the timber company and his love of baseball had come from his own playing days in California. To start the team, McGinnis had financial support from Tom Yawkey and Ben Alexander, owners of the Boston Red Sox and also stockholders in the timber company. The new field would cost \$10,000 and have lighting which allowed night games to be played. *"Ten 'mammoth' fir poles, each 90 feet tall, were hauled to the field Wednesday to be set for the flood lights."* (Silverton Appeal, May 28, 1937). The team would be playing on the new field by 1938. The stadium would hold up to 5,000 fans and games could last until late into the night, a fascinating thought now that all of the sports stadiums are currently vacated in our country.



I had often seen a poster in the museum's Red Sox display room announcing that the Kansas City Monarchs were going to be playing the Red Sox in Silverton on July 17, 1938. They were the National Colored League Champions and in doing my research found that this is not the only time that Black teams would be hosted in Silverton. Knowing what I know about the history of Black players, there were many towns where they were not allowed to play. Baseball really is our national pastime and was the first sport to break the color ban.



As the folks on the alumni board told me when I left with the dirt; 'now we have the dirt on Judy.'

*Judy Lowery*

## Gone Moved, but Not Forgotten

By Fred A. Parkinson

Silverton is a city of numerous homes, some old, countless new, with many in between. The old expression, “They don’t build ‘em like they used to” would put a smile on anyone’s face when marveling at the aesthetic beauty of some of our town’s older homes. Although many of Silverton’s stately old homes, sturdily built with old-growth timber, are still standing, much of Silverton’s architectural history has long since disappeared. There are numerous newspaper accounts of homes and other buildings being torn down or, perhaps more accurately, dismantled, in order to salvage reusable old growth lumber that would then be incorporated into a new build.

Occasionally, rather than tear down a home in order to erect a new building, occurring as the downtown business core expanded, the structure was saved by moving it to a new location. We’ve identified several homes and a few other buildings that have long since been moved to a new place and are still standing today. We’ve researched several of these buildings around town. The following selections were all moved during the 1920s:

### Louis J. Adams House (the first one)

When people who know something of Silverton history hear the name L. J. Adams, they may immediately think of the big house on West Hill with the terraced lawn that he had built by 1910. However, this is not the first house he had built in Silverton. Louis J. Adams came to Oregon from Ohio in 1884. He married May Coolidge, daughter of prominent early pioneers Ai and Sarah Coolidge, in 1888. By then, the Coolidge family had become quite wealthy and had developed numerous business interests including the Coolidge and McClaine Bank.

After getting married, Adams built a modest Queen Anne style house on Coolidge land he purchased adjacent to his father-in-law’s house on West Main Street near the bottom of West Hill, then known as Liberty Hill. Here, he and his wife would raise four children. He became a legal consultant for the bank and was admitted to the Oregon State Bar in 1897. His wife, May, passed away in 1899, leaving Adams to raise his small children alone.



By 1910, Adams’s fortunes had increased to the point that he was able to build the palatial house on the hill. In the early 1920s, the old family home near the bottom of the hill was moved back from West Main Street and rotated 90 degrees to the east. This cleared space for two new craftsman homes to be built for two Adams daughters. At some point after it was moved, a large two-story addition was built at the rear of the house.

L. J. Adams had a long, distinguished, legal, business, and political career in Silverton, having served at various times on the city council, as mayor, state senator, and judge. L. J. Adams passed away in 1931. His first Silverton house, now painted blue, still rests at the corner of Apple and Jerome Avenues, just as it has stood for nearly one hundred years.

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## Gone Moved, but Not Forgotten - Continued

### Dr. Frank Brooks House

Dr. Frank M. Brooks began his practice in Silverton in 1892. He owned a lot on the west side of North Water Street just south of High Street. He lived in a house that was probably built before 1900 on the north side of the lot. The 1906 Sanborn map shows a small building labeled "Dr. Office" next to the house that was undoubtedly his professional office. In 1909 he took a young doctor named Rudolph E. Kleinsorge into his practice. When Dr. Brooks moved to Portland in 1910, Kleinsorge took over the practice. Sometime after Brooks moved, Dr. Kleinsorge ultimately moved his office to the new Masonic Building. He would go on to practice medicine in Silverton until 1969.

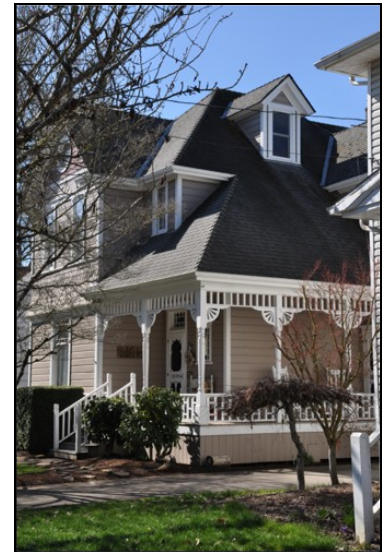
It's not known if Dr. Brooks still owned the property in 1919, but in March of that year the *Silverton Appeal* reported that the lot had been sold to L. C. Eastman with the plan of erecting a building to house his Silverton Blowpipe Company. For some reason, the plans were never carried out and Eastman subsequently sold the property in October 1919 to Dr. Andrew Wrightman and Joe Uphoff. They built a garage that opened in 1920 on the south end of the property adjacent to the Gem Theater (now the Red Bench) while leaving the Brooks house intact on the north end.

The original business lessee of the new garage, the Keelan Motor Company, gave up their lease one year later, so the owners decided to convert the garage into retail space. That building now houses the Thai Dish Restaurant and the North Star Antiques and Collectibles store. In addition to the retail conversion, they planned to build a new garage next door, ensuring the need to move the old Brooks house. Local contractor M. S. Hendrickson, who advertised "House Moving a Specialty" in his ads, was tasked with relocating the house to the end of North Water at Grant Street. The October 7, 1921 *Silverton Appeal* reported: "M. S. Henderson who is moving the Wrightman & Uphoff building (as the Brooks house was referred to in the article) from the lot next to the Lowery Dray Line Station, has the building well down to its final resting place at the end of North Water Street. The building is one Dr. F. M. Brooks occupied when he lived here." The current owner of the home recently related that the house, when at its original location downtown, had no basement. When the house was relocated, it was set on a foundation that included a basement.

### Julius C. Wolf house

Julius Wolf's father, Adolph, was born in Austria-Hungary and ultimately settled in Independence, Oregon around 1866, where he operated the first general merchandise store in the area. He moved his family, including fifteen-year-old Julius and two other children, to Silverton in 1884, where he again operated a successful mercantile business. Having taken his son, Julius, as a partner in 1890, the business was known as Adolph Wolf and Son when he built the impressive iron-fronted building in 1891 at the corner of North Water and East Main Streets. He sold his business in 1899 to James Craig and engaged in a successful hop business with his son until his death in 1918. As was his father, Julius was active in community affairs.

When the Wolf family moved to Silverton in 1884 they had built a Queen Anne style house on North Water Street a couple of lots up from "A" Street on the same block where the Silverton schoolhouse was located. Two innovations made this house unique for its time. The first was the installation of the first telephone in Silverton--a private line placed between Wolf's store on East Main Street and his home on North Water Street. This phone is on display at the museum. The second was a unique gravity-fed water system that

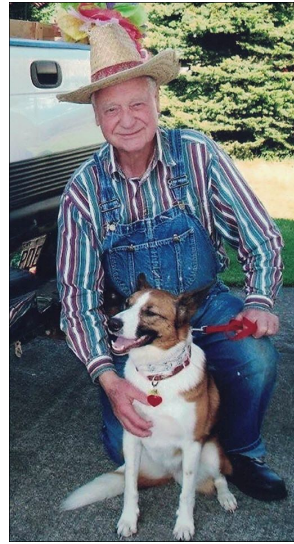


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In recognition of this election year, our main display case in the living room is once again being graced by our collection of First Lady dolls, lovingly styled and dressed by long time Silverton resident, Mary Ruhl Dodds.



Our Town Photo

## Vince Till

September 28, 1928 - June 10, 2020

We are sad to report the passing of this Silverton hero and long-time friend of the community and the Historical Society.

None of us will be able to pass one of our local murals without thinking of this generous man.

He will be sorely missed.....

## Julius C. Wolf house - continued

delivered water from the tank on top of his downtown building, down four blocks on North Water Street to his residence. Julius lived in the house after the deaths of his mother and father.

Eugene Field School was built in 1922 on land just south of the Wolf home as an addition to the existing public school system. When a sudden fire burned down another school building in late 1924, the expansion of Eugene Field School became necessary. To add classrooms to the north wing of the school, the school district needed to acquire the adjacent land from Wolf, which it soon purchased.

The February 27, 1925 *Silverton Appeal* announced: "A deal was closed Wednesday by J. C. Wolf for the purchase of a 75 x 130 ft. lot on North Water Street, adjoining the Frank DeGuire property. The purchase was made from P.L. Brown. Mr. Wolf will move his present home from the property on the same street, which he recently sold to district No. 4 for school purposes."

Once again local contractor M. S. Hendrickson was employed to move a dwelling, this time to a lot on North Water St, approximately halfway between Brown and James Streets. Several weeks later, the April 3, 1925 *Silverton Appeal* reported: "The J. C. Wolf residence has reached its new location and is now being put in shape again. It was a real engineering task to take the house down the street amid telephone and electric light wires and poles and land right side up at the proper spot, but this was done admirably by Contractor Hendrickson."

Unfortunately, Wolf was only able to enjoy his new location for a little over five years. He passed away in November 1929.



Several structures are still found in Silverton that have been moved from their original location to a new lot where they survive to this day. Some were moved to build a new residence on the same site, while others were relocated in order to build a new business in a prime location. It was a big job to move a building, even for just a short distance. Most of the time, electrical and telephone wires had to be temporarily removed along the route to allow clearance for the moving home and then restrung after it passed by, no small task, even by today's standards. Where more of these additional buildings are located, including one historic edifice that was moved three times, will be the subject of a future article.



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*Celebrating Over 45 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.  
You're the best!!**

Carolyn Hutton Victoria Delaney Mary Ellen McCleary Fleck  
The Fry, Grinde and Stewart Families

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

**(Remember membership renewals were all due in January--  
but it's not too late to renew now!!)**

Do not despair--even though the Homer Davenport Days Community Festival has been postponed, the Silverton Country Historical Society is tentatively planning another book sale event (with possibly other activities.....) for later this Fall. We will keep you posted!(Pictured here is Norm English....very likely doing research for his next book!



**Your S.C.H.S. Board**

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