

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making



*Museum and Office
428 South Water Street*

WELCOME 2021!!

We are so looking forward to the new year in the hope that we will again have the opportunity to serve the community the best way we know how! We are grateful that we have been able to staff the museum so we could answer the several requests for information, photos, etc.. that came to us via phone or email. But it is just not the same as welcoming visitors in person and being able to share the pride we feel about our town and its history.

Normally January finds us scheduling our annual meeting, but in a review of our by-laws we found that this meeting does not have to be in January; so we are rethinking this and will devise an alternate plan. I am all for a picnic meeting in the summer!

Three of Silverton's older buildings are undergoing remodeling and repurposing and we were able to provide the interested parties with histories and photos--the Lewis Johnson Building (the former Silver Grille); the early site of Hubbs Insurance on North Water Street (O'Brien's); and Cusiter's General Store, (The Silverton Wine Bar). We are so excited to see what 2021 has in store for these historic buildings.



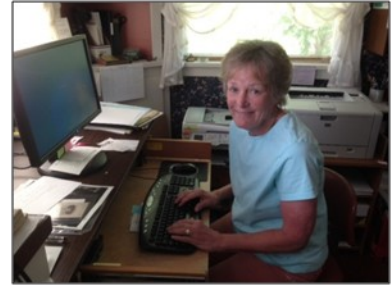
We are hoping to be able to start readying our Coin Toss booth for the Homer Davenport Community Festival. (So many community members have continued to keep us in their thoughts and have donated a good supply of glassware. Thank you!) And we are planning another used book sale...hopefully this summer as well. Gus has posted several old film clips on our FaceBook page and perhaps we could offer a program of even more of these. We always welcome program ideas, so contact us if you have suggestions. Also, the down time has allowed us to spend many hours sorting and organizing photos and documents....actually an ongoing endeavor.



We are ready and waiting in anticipation to open our doors to the public once again. Until then--please stay safe and healthy. Happy New Year!

Curator's Corner

What a year this has been and what an understatement for the beginning of my corner! In thinking about this article over the last few weeks, I decided to take a look back at our town a hundred years ago.



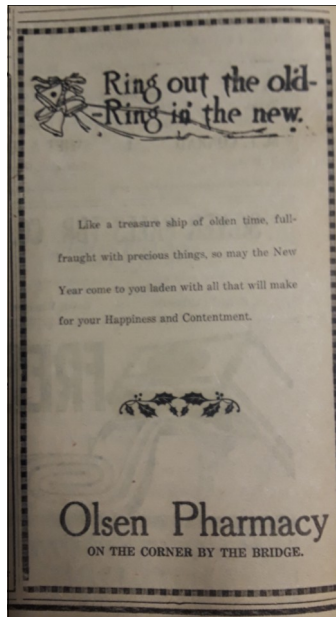
The January 2, 1920 front page of the Silverton Appeal listed the notable events of 1919. The first one mentioned was that the 'flu' had found many in Silverton ill but that very few deaths had been recorded. The cartoon at the top of the article ushered in the New Year with a phone call. The paper is full of ads wishing the residents a happy New Year.



I personally loved the idea of this past year being 2020, like great eyesight, I thought it would be filled with clear vision for great things, but as we know the Pandemic has changed that clear vision for us all. The last edition of 1920, December 31, 1920 again had a cute cartoon on the front page announcing the New Year. Once again the pages are filled with ads wishing the residents a Happy New Year. One of the ads is from Olsen Pharmacy.



There is also a short article letting people know that the Trinity Home Circle ladies were planning a 'shadow sale'. Since the ladies were making box lunches, I am assuming that those lunches were to be the sale items. Refreshments were provided after the sale to celebrate the New Year. All were invited to come and celebrate the New Year Eve activity. That is just one of the many activities announced for the evening. I would imagine that New Year's Eve celebrations looked a quite different this year.



On another note, the front page of the January 7, 1921 edition of the Appeal is filled with a very long and detailed account of Mr. and Mrs. A.G. Steelhammer's Golden Wedding anniversary celebration. Along with the Steelhammer article is one from the Willard Club where a New Year's Eve party was held at the historic Geer home. Among the 85 guests was S.H. Van Trump who gave a 'very fine paper on the subject of Education and Compensation'. The article gives a bit of history about the



home which was built in 1847 and that it was the home of the ex-governor of Oregon T.T. Geer. The article also mentions that Homer Davenport was a frequent guest at the home and that one of his drawings on the boards of the porch has been kept intact and left unpainted even when the home received a new coat of paint few years ago.

As the new year of 2021 begins, it is my hope that we will all be able to see with 'clear vision' all that is great about our country. Stay safe everyone.

Judy Lowery

Jamea French
June 3, 1943 - December 2, 2020

We at the Museum are very sorry to share news of the passing of Jamea French, a very dear friend and loyal supporter of the Historical Society.

Shortly after her move here with her family in 1981, Jamea, fully appreciative of her strong historic ties to the community, jumped feet first into membership with the Historical Society. As a granddaughter of Dr. R.E. Kleinsorge and niece of Silverton High School Librarian, Elizabeth Kleinsorge, Jamea willingly shared the history of her family, offering us many wonderful artifacts of the Kleinsorge family and early Silverton.



Even more special was her willingness to give of her time and energy as an SCHS board member and volunteer. Almost from the beginning, Jamea served as Board



Treasurer and overseer of special projects. Her boundless energy and passion for enhancing the Society's image were motivation for many activities in the Society's early years.

Her most outstanding contribution was taking on a major kitchen display. Working with Margo Moser and Curator Margaret English, she spearheaded a project to completely refinish the floor, add wall paper and curtains and arrange the many furniture and kitchen artifacts to portray a typical 1920's kitchen. While in recent years we have had to modify the display, the evidence of her hard work remains visible to this day. And this will help us to always remember the vital part she played in our history.



Last spring we took delivery of the latest batch of plaques that were going to be prepped for installation. In the past we partnered with the High School shop classes for the fabrication of the pedestals, but sadly, the corona virus stymied us. The plaques are safely ensconced in our basement awaiting the day when we can proceed.

Pictured here are the supplies members use to inspect and maintain the existing plaques. We try to do this two or three times a year to clean them and try to protect them from bird droppings and soil. Most of them are holding up quite well. As the weather improves, we suggest you enjoy a mini walking tour to visit the existing plaques.



Fischer Mill
(behind the Museum)



Water and Main



Main and First



Digerness Store
Oak and First



Eugene Field School



1915 High School
North First St.



Mac's Place
North Water St.



Opera House
North Water St.

Year End Reports

As we are unable to have a normal annual meeting at this time, we are providing you with the usual year end reports in the newsletter.

Curator's 2020 Annual Report

Judy Lowery

As the collections manager I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year and am hoping that each of you are doing well and staying healthy.

2020 began with our annual meeting held at the Senior Center and it was very well attended with slightly over 30 people in attendance. The museum had 85 visitors for the year and we were very happy to have folks from the Brooks Historical Museum come for a tour in March right before the museum was closed. The museum's last weekend to be opened was March 14th and 15th. The museum did reopen in July and remained open for visitors until our normal closing date of Veterans Day. As you know, we needed to meet coronavirus precaution regulations, which meant that masks, gloves and hand sanitizer were made available. The few visitors that we hosted were very careful to make sure that they followed those guidelines. One of our greatest disappointments was that due to school closures, we were unable to host our school tours

Overall, there have been seven accessions made during 2020. Carolyn and Marlin Hutton donated several pieces of china that were used in the logging camps as well as cook caps, all of which have greatly added to our logging artifacts. To this point, I don't believe that we have had any artifacts like that here at the museum.

The volunteer hours for 2020 were 892. I must add that several people forget to sign in when they volunteer and this year I found that I was one of those folks. All kidding aside, I am amazed at how many hours it takes to keep things running smoothly even with the shutdown. The museum was once again part of the Willamette Heritage display in January. The theme was honoring Rotary clubs of the area and I was able to use our local club's beautiful banner of flags along with photos, song books and posters of activities that the club has sponsored over the years. Unfortunately, Willamette Heritage was closed from March until late May, so the director asked if we would agree to keep our display open until June, which we did.

We had over 30 requests for information last year. Many of those were asking about local schools that have since been disbanded and also for the history on homes and businesses or families. One request came in the mail from a gentleman who is incarcerated in a California Correctional Institution. His was a request for a relative who has since passed, but had lived in Silverton for several years. In writing back with the information that we could find, I asked what his connection was to these folks but have not heard back.



Renewal Reminder....

All our memberships became due for renewal December 2020 and January 2021 and the notices should be in this copy of the newsletter or you will receive one by mail. We appreciate your support, especially in this very challenging year. Our core volunteers were able to safely staff the museum and to process the donations that came in and to respond to the requests for information or copies of photos. We were so pleased to be able to be of help. Again, we thank you for your support.

Treasurer's Report for 2020 Tracy Duerst

2020 Summary--

| | |
|-----------------|-------------|
| Total income: | \$12,997.37 |
| Total expenses: | \$10,836.08 |
| Net income: | \$ 2,161.29 |

Last year the only major expense was \$2,301.60 spent for laser engraving of the next group of pedestal plaques (the income for those plaques was received in previous years). We were very fortunate to have received a \$7,500 donation from the Estate of Doris Hartley and a \$2,000 from Jane Jones. If not for those donations, I would have had to show a negative for income in 2020. We are also very fortunate to have a good amount, \$23,760.58, in savings. 2020 has been a challenging year and I am hopeful we can resume normal activities later this summer in time for Homer Days!

Membership Update - Chris Schwab

As of December 31, 2020--

| | |
|--|----|
| Individual memberships at \$15 per year | 41 |
| Family memberships at \$20 per year | 30 |
| Senior memberships at \$10 per year | 25 |
| Business memberships at \$25 per year | 10 |
| Contributor memberships at \$25 per year | 17 |
| Sustaining memberships at \$50 or more | 15 |
| Patron memberships at \$100 or more | 11 |
| Life Memberships | 19 |



For a total of 167 memberships. And we appreciate every single one of you!!

One More Thing!!

Please think of us as you consider future volunteer opportunities. When we are at last allowed to open, we will need volunteers to host the museum on the weekends that we are available to the public. This is most definitely not a major time commitment--it is usually, just three hours, once a month. No experience required.....just a love of Silverton and its history.



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SILVERTON.MUSEUM@LIVE.COM

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!!

| | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Barbara Dettwyler | Christopher and Julie Davie | Cara Bradfield |
| Beth Negrey | Bob and Marilyn Dedrick | Kristi Curtin |
| Nancy Rose | Jeanette and Brent Dryer | Mary Brandt |
| Betty Layne | Tim and Cheryl Erickson | Jane Jones |
| Walt and Pamela Pelett | John and Jill Pavlicek | |

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



**Remember membership
renewals are all due in
January!!**

Your S.C.H.S. Board

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| Gus Frederick | President |
| Vacant | Past-Pres. |
| Fred Parkinson | Vice-Pres. |
| Chris Schwab | Secretary |
| Tracy Duerst | Treasurer |
| Judy Lowery | Curator |
| Kathy Hunter | Membership |
| Board Members | |
| Ruth Kaser | |
| Corey Christensen | |
| Russ Gould | |
| Nick Coffey | |

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