

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making



Museum and Office
428 South Water Street

How Two Buildings Became One

Part I

By Fred A. Parkinson

Silverton has an abundance of interesting buildings in the downtown core area, none more so than two buildings once located on North Water Street between East Main and Oak streets. One is still there, the other is not. This is the story of how two buildings became one.

During Silverton’s founding, and for years after, the local economy revolved around agriculture. The arrival of the railroad in the 1880s allowed transport of a wide variety of local crops to market. In addition to growing various vegetable and fruit crops, grains such as wheat, oats and barley provided raw materials for several grist mills in the area.

As a result of increased lumber production by area mills in the early 1900s, Silverton began to transition from an agriculture to a light industrial based economy. This resulted in the largest economic boom in its history, stimulated by both the new Silverton Lumber Company and later the Silver Falls Timber Company. This growth resulted in a number of commercial buildings going up in the downtown core, including the second bank for Silverton, The Peoples Bank (1905), the Adams-Porter Opera House (1905), the Julius Alm building (1908), and the Masonic Temple Building (1915). Three of these structures are still standing today.

Included in this activity was a commercial building known as the Taylor-Palmer Building. The July 14, 1916 *Silverton Appeal* reported “A contract was signed Friday by Thornley & Jones for the erection of a one-story concrete block building on Water Street between West (*misprint-should be East*) Main and Oak streets for Marion Palmer and E. E. Taylor who own the lot joining the Ames hardware store.” The building measured 42 x 64 feet and included a full basement. It was constructed to house two separate businesses, each occupying a space measuring 21 x 64. The street address for the building would eventually be 108 N. Water for the southern location and 110 N. Water for the northern.



Taylor-Palmer building circa 1918 (behind horses) before Worden building was built

E. E Taylor was born in 1871 near Macleay and came to Silverton in 1892, soon establishing Taylor’s Barber Shop. He married Kathryn Karstetter in 1897. Taylor operated his business for 58 years, retiring in 1950. He had an avid interest in all things Silverton, both in its history as well as current events. Taylor passed away on June 23, 1952, having been known, according to his obituary, as “the oldest pioneer businessman in Silverton.”

Marion Palmer was born in 1855 on the family farm situated on the present site of Mt. Angel. He married Josephine Porter in 1874, with whom he had six children. He was a successful farmer, specializing in hops and grain, on his farm at Downs Station between Silverton and Mt. Angel. Later in life he helped organize The People’s Bank in Silverton, ultimately becoming its president in 1909. Retiring in 1911, he moved his family to Silverton. Palmer passed away on October 19, 1930 in Silverton. He was widely known throughout the Willamette Valley and, according to his obituary, “His life was exemplified by kindness, serenity and generosity.”

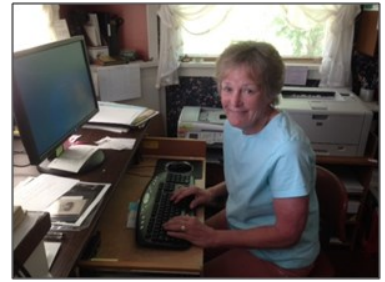
Continued on Page 3

Curator's Corner

As you enter the museum you will immediately see a display case full of memorabilia from various local businesses of which are not just decades old but over 100 years old. The pieces displayed are



anything from hangers that the local Economy Cleaners supplied clients along with the cleaners' phone number BLUE 1831. There is an added phrase on the hanger stating: 'Dry Cleaning Protects the Health of the Nation.'



I will take a little 'bird walk' here because I find the phone number history to be fascinating. As of 1952 phone numbers still included a color and sometimes a letter with several numbers to follow. Example: Rural-Red-133 or Rural-5-F111. Then in 1953 the phone numbers left the color scheme behind and simply became 3-4707. In 1957 TR for Trinity was added which later became our present 873.

Back to the real story. Each business had a token gift to their customers thanking them for their business. Calendars were given toward the end of the year from businesses and one dates from 1928. The business was the Silverton Auto Freight. The small metal calendar has a thermometer, the owners name; L.G. McDonald; location; Main 207, phone; Res. Red 1051, also Portland phone numbers since the business also maintained a daily service to Portland. All of this advertisement on a calendar that measures five inches by four and a half inches. There is a blue sugar and creamer set which you could also receive at the Julius Alm store with a purchase of Lipton Tea and thought to also date from 1928. In this day and age of bar coding that is used for pricing one item in the display was donated by Fred Parkinson who

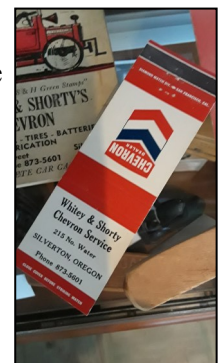


was the owner of Silverton Rexall Drug store at 210 Oak Street. It is the machine that stamps the price on bright red stickers for each individual item in the store. The tape is still in it along with clear instructions on the side. Just another look back at how more labor intensive even pricing items was just a few decades ago.

Marlys Sanford has donated a bright yellow vest worn by the people that worked at Sanford Seed Company which is hanging to the right of the display case. Sanford Seed Company was started by her father-in-law in 1952 on Third Street and then moved the business to Airport Road in 1954



Another great advertising tool were match book covers and there are several in the display case. We also have a collection of them thanks to Barbara Dettwyler, some of which date back to pre Second World War. Just another side note the tavern covers are really interesting. In todays' world some of them would probably not be acceptable.



Judy Lowery

**Welcome Linda McKay to our board!
More about Linda in the next issue....**

*Continued from Page 1***How Two Buildings Became One** (continued)

The first tenant in the new building's southern location (108 N Water) was the New Palm Confectionery in September 1916. The New Palm was the first of over a dozen tenants to occupy the space before the end came. They had moved from their previous location in the Opera House. In October 1918, The Silver Grill Restaurant that had previously been located in the Hosmer building on S. Water Street took over The Palm's lease. After the Silver Grill moved further up N. Water Street in 1920, the space was then taken over by the Water Street Meat Market, owned by Earl Garver and William Graham, a location they would occupy for many years. A series of grocery stores initially conducted business in the northern portion (110 N. Water) of the building, first by Sam Walker in 1917 and then by Carl Moser in 1920, who happened to be the son-in-law of one of the building's original owners, E. E. Taylor.

The May 5, 1922 *Silverton Appeal* reported that Ike Worden had purchased the corner lot at N. Water and Oak streets and intended to build "an uptodate (sic) gasoline and oiling station." Soon after that purchase, Worden bought half of the Taylor-Palmer building immediately to the south of his lot. The business would be known as the Standard Service Station, run by Worden and a new partner, C. Hilliard Smith.

Ike Worden was born in 1867 in Wisconsin and by 1885 was working for the railroad. He had a long and productive career with the Northern Pacific Railroad, rising to the rank of Freight Conductor. He married Emma Krueger in 1887. Retiring around 1920, he and Emma arrived in Oregon where they settled on a farm in Scotts Mills they had purchased a few years earlier. They bought a house on Coolidge Street and later moved into Silverton. Worden was able to accumulate several business properties in Silverton, including his service station, as well as half of the building that currently houses Mac's Place. In failing health, he passed away in July 1944.

The Standard Service Station opened for business in early August 1922. The station featured a striking "drive-through" design, allowing customers to drive into the building from either North Water or Oak Street and then exit out the opposite side. Constructed primarily of cement and brick, the facility featured prominent elliptically shaped awnings over the entrances and exits. The building also included a tire shop, as well as commercial business space on the east side that was soon occupied by Lerfald Jewelers, with a partial second story housing apartment space above.



Silverton Service Station in 1924 showing adjacent Taylor-Palmer building

Interestingly enough, the fate of the station was almost literally snuffed out just as the business was getting started. Less than a month after the facility opened, the adjacent Silverton Hotel on Oak Street burned to the ground in a spectacular fire on August 25, 1922.

A couple of months after it opened, the station's business name changed to the Silverton Service Station. Although Worden owned the building up to his death, the business itself would ultimately be run by over a dozen people by 1929.

In May 1929, Worden announced he was remodeling his building to eliminate the service station by converting the entire first floor to retail and office space. Also, he planned to complete the rest of the second story, providing additional office space. The remodeled building was ready for occupancy in October.



Worden building showing changed footprint

The building's footprint changed from a rectangle to a square after incorporating the half building purchased in 1922 into the remodeled design. This change left a one-story building to the south at 108 N. Water Street. This transformation is readily apparent by examining a 1957 aerial photo that clearly shows the difference in the east wall where the two former buildings had met, as well as the difference in elevation of the completed second story.

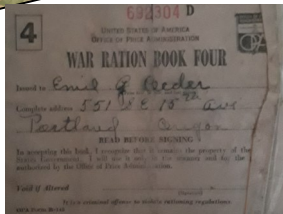
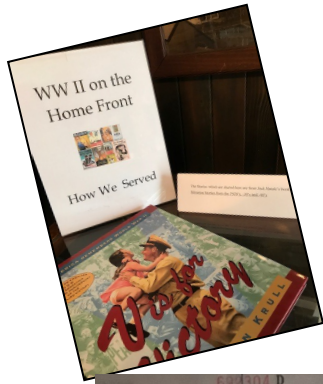
(Part two in a future issue examines what became of the two buildings, including a 1986 event that significantly altered the exterior of the Worden building.)



Museum Display for Veteran's Day



Along with our customary exhibit of vintage military uniforms, we will be honoring those of us here at home who supported the troops during the war.



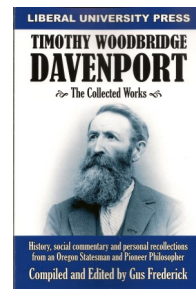
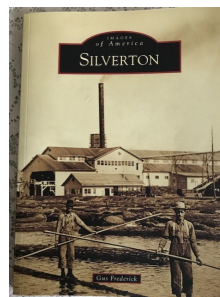
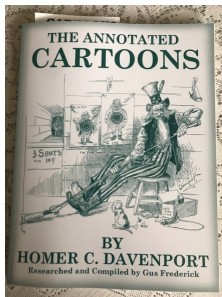
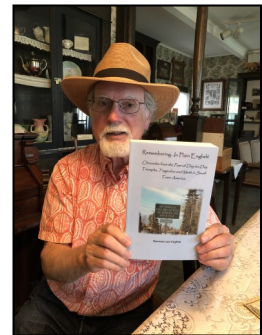
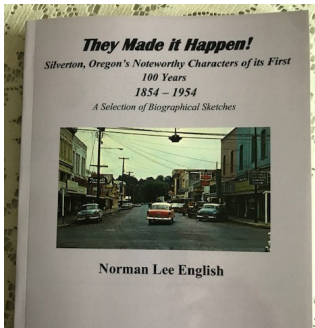
Book Signing —

**Saturday, November 6th
at the Museum 1 to 4 pm**

New book by Norm English:
They Made it Happen
A selection of biological sketches of Silverton's
Noteworthy Characters in its
first 100 years: 1854-1954
\$18.95

And his earlier work,
Remembering...In Plain English, will also be available.

AND Gus Frederick will be here to sign copies of his books:



All the works shown here, plus many others, are available to purchase at the Museum.
Just in time for holiday gift giving....perfect for anyone who loves Silverton

Dime Toss booth at the Homer Davenport Community Festival

We were pleased to participate again in 2021—And as ever, a fantastic time was had by all! Thank you to everyone who volunteered and who supported us. See you next year!!



Oak Tree Stump Revival



This past year had taken a bit of a toll on our Oak Tree Stump Gazebokind of like the rest of us. There was some pen marking, a bit of carving on a couple of boards, and periodically there was trash strewn around. We did what we could but this summer we realized something more had to be done. The gazebo was originally an Eagle Scout project but we couldn't find a group available. We approached Steve Potter, Scout leader extraordinaire for advice. Before we knew it the amazing Steve was propping and nailing and replacing and painting. And here are the results! Practically as good as new. Thank you, Steve!

Flag Pole

A huge shout out to the City of Silverton and especially to Michael Dalhberg and Jacob Rash who came the morning of September 20th to rehang the rope that had rotted on the flag pole leaving the flag homeless for about two months.

Thank you! The flag now proudly flies once again.



Film Crew Comes to Silverton

A film crew has been here in Silverton producing a film about the local phenomenon known as Stu Rasmussen! If you recall, the 2008 election of Stu as the country's first openly transgender mayor, resulted in a moderately popular musical in 2018, called Stu for Silverton.

The current group is here to film the story about the musical, Stu's story and a bit about Silverton itself....as in, why this small rural community reacted the way it did to ignore prejudice and closed-mindedness and decided to stand behind one of it's own. It's been lots of fun sharing Silverton's present and past with them.





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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!!

Patricia Moser Mullen John Hollenrake Gregg Harris
Larry and Carol Zetterberg Tom and Marsha Worthen
Serenity Home and Spa Shoppe

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

Remember: Membership renewals are all due December 31



**Greeting card to Miss Cassie Blackerby
October 1909**

**Come see our salute to Veterans
At the Museum now until
Veterans's Day**



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!**