

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making



*Museum and Office
428 South Water Street*

Lester Whitlock's Outdoor Fireplace By Fred A. Parkinson

The first thirty years of the twentieth century were economic boom times in Silverton. The presence of two large lumber mills allowed many new residents of Silverton to find work. Many craftsman style homes were built during this period. New homes continued to be erected during the Great Depression of the 1930s, but not at the same rate as earlier. Many families added a unique feature in their backyard: an outdoor fireplace.

One of the most unique fireplaces was built in 1939. It stood in the backyard of a home a few blocks south of downtown Silverton. The home was owned by the Lester Whitlock family.

Lester J. Whitlock was born in 1890 in Portland. He lived in the Silverton-Salem area for most of his life, except for service in Europe during WWI. Whitlock, who rose to the rank of Sargent, met his future wife, Jeanne Augustine Antoinette Soulier, while deployed to France. Soon after her January 1921 marriage, Jeanne emigrated to America with her new husband, where she gave birth to their first child, Marianne, in January 1922. Their second child, Doris, was born in July 1923.

Lester went to work for the Silver Falls Timber Company as a railroad locomotive engineer. He worked for the company until the mill shut down in 1945, although toward the end of his service, he and his locomotive number 101 were loaned out for a year to a mill in Washington.



Whitlock's 1939 Outdoor Fireplace

A birthday party was held at the Whitlock residence on July 14, 1926, to celebrate the third birthday of their daughter, Doris. Coincidentally, July 14 also happened to be French Independence Day, (also known as Bastille Day) a date important to Doris's mother, Jeanne, who was born in France. According to a newspaper item regarding the event: "Wednesday being the independence day (sic) of France, the luncheon table was beautifully decorated in red, white and blue, the large three-canded birthday cake in the center."

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April Event!!

The Salem Auto Club Council is holding the 93rd Annual Cherry Blossom Drive & Poker Run on Saturday, April 16 from 9 am to 2 pm, and has chosen the SCHS Museum as one of its stops!

Representatives of area car clubs visit several stops in the Valley selecting playing cards at each location. The object is to collect the best poker hand by the time the event is over. This is a major fundraiser for the group and we are delighted to help them make it possible here in Silverton.

For more information:

<https://salemclubcouncil.org/cherry-blossom-run>



The Museum will be open during those hours and we are also hosting a vintage book sale for all our visitors. We hope you can stop by, check out the classic vehicles and maybe pick up a classic book. (ideal for collectors, crafters and decorators.) See you here!!

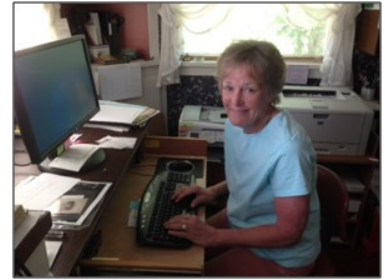


Curator's Corner

Judy is not available for this issue, so we will forge ahead and share with you a couple of new things we've been up to.



She definitely wants to thank the amazing cleaning crew who stepped up and took care of spiffing up the place: Carolyn Hutton, Tracy Duerst, Ruth Kaser, Jeff Benson and Chris Schwab. We did get some fantastic help from Leone's Janitorial Service who did the deep cleaning after the bathroom remodel.



You have to come check it out!



Also new, and much more exciting than dusting and vacuuming, is our new Instagram page. Most of you know about our Facebook page, but our amazing Carrie Caster has set us up with an Instagram account and has been posting lots of historic images of Silverton. We hope you will find us and be a follower.


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Outdoor Fireplace—Continued

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The Silverton Veterans of Foreign Wars post #3004 was established in 1934. A proud veteran, Lester Whitlock was a charter member holding card number one.

Years later an article appeared in the May 19, 1939, *Silverton Appeal-Tribune* headlined: **“New Outdoor Fireplace Termed Unique”** It described, in great detail, an outdoor fireplace designed by Lester and built in the backyard of the family home by local stone mason Jess Mosher. The diverse accumulation of materials used in its construction made the fireplace unique. The paper reported: “It is composed of lava, shell and glass rock, pieces of marble, fool’s gold, rough and polished agates, brick and the like.....” These assorted items were gathered from all over Oregon, including material from an abandoned mine, as well as pieces of white Vermont marble obtained from the recently constructed state capitol building in Salem. The fireplace measured five feet wide by eight feet high and included both a built-in picnic stove and a charcoal grill on opposite ends. A circular strip of cement was poured in front of the piece. To commemorate the year built, “1939” was carved into a flat stone above the firebox.



This fireplace apparently became quite well-known around town due to its distinctive design. Unfortunately, the family enjoyed their backyard fireplace for only five years before they decided to move after the mill shut down.

After Whitlock lost his job when the Silver Falls Timber Company shut down, the family decided to buy a six-unit apartment building in Salem. The August 9, 1945 *Salem Capital Journal* reported: “The Whitlocks are moving to Salem to manage their apartment house properties.” The newspaper reported that a farewell party was held in the back yard “about the out-door (sic) fireplace” at the Whitlock residence, where well-wishes and gifts were presented. The guests consisted of members of the local VFW and auxiliary.

A day later, a notice in the August 10, 1945, *Silverton Appeal-Tribune* described the farewell gathering by relating: “A social time was enjoyed around the outdoor fireplace, after which no-host refreshments were served. Mrs. Whitlock was presented with a gift from the auxiliary.” The outdoor fireplace was mentioned prominently in both newspaper stories.

Meanwhile, the Silverton house with the backyard fireplace was sold to the Leonard Hatteberg Sr. family when the Whitlocks moved in 1945. Some Hatteberg grandchildren vaguely remember the old fireplace in the backyard.

Since the Whitlocks had lived in Silverton for close to a quarter-century, they continued to be mentioned in the local paper from time to time, even after moving to Salem. One such mention involved a story about what could only be described as a dream vacation for Jeanne Whitlock. The story in the August 26, 1952, *Daily Capital Journal* was titled **“Whitlocks Leave Soon for Europe.”** The article related how Lester and Jeanne were planning to travel to Paris, France, birthplace of Jeanne, for an extended stay. They planned to leave Silverton around mid-September. The story stated: “They will drive to New York, leaving around September 12, visiting places of interest enroute, (sic) and are booked to sail on the French Liner, the USS Liberty, leaving New York September 30.” Mrs. Whitlock had never returned to her birthplace since coming to America as an eighteen-year-old newlywed in 1921. The Whitlocks were gone for about six months.

The Silverton house remained in the Hatteberg family for around forty years. It has been sold twice since the mid-1980s, but the distinctive fireplace still stands today in the backyard. It has seen better days, but the current owners hope to restore it to its former glory someday, certainly an ambitious goal worth pursuing.

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A Tribute To Zetta Schlador Silverton's Woman Mayor

Recently Audrey Van Houweling, owner of the building that houses She Soars Psychiatry and other women-focused health businesses, requested information on Silverton's first woman Mayor. The group has named their building, located at 502 N. First Street, the Zetta House as a tribute to her years of civic involvement in our community.

From our Power Women series of "collectors cards" highlighting notable females from of the Silverton Country—

Mayoress Takes Office Jan. 9, 1938 proclaimed the headline heralding the new administration of **Zetta White Schlador**, the first and only woman mayor Silverton has ever had. One of eight children, Zetta was born in 1888 on the family farm near Monitor, where she spent her early years before marrying Cal Schlador and moving to Silverton.

In 1925 Zetta opened the Women's Specialty Shop, a dress store, on East Main Street. While serving as president of the Chamber of Commerce she was elected mayor of Silverton in 1938. During her two, one year, terms she worked on projects including the local airport, the sewage system, and the new community swimming pool. During her administration, and after a clash with the all-male city council, police officers were required to wear uniforms for the first time.



Spring is here!

Kathy Hunter, Grounds Maintenance Chair, led three other enthusiastic board members (Linda McKay, Ruth Kaser and Tracy Duerst) on a grounds cleaning spree on Tuesday the 15th. Their goal? Getting the lawn and flower beds in shape for the spring/summer. We are always so happy when the Museum grounds are looking their best. Many thanks to these fantastic volunteers!



Display Case—Robert Borland

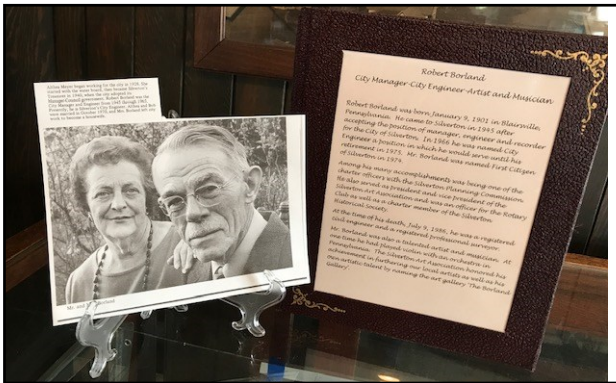
We are pleased to feature Robert Borland in our main display case. Mr. Borland was Silverton’s City Manager, City Engineer, as well as talented artist and musician. He was born in 1901 in Blairsville, Pennsylvania and came to Silverton in 1945 after accepting the position of manager, engineer and recorder for the City of Silverton. In 1966 he was named City Engineer, a position in which he would serve until his retirement in 1975. In 1974, Mr. Borland was recognized as Silverton’s First Citizen.

Among his many accomplishments was being one of the charter officers with the Silverton Planning Commission. He also served as president and vice president of the Silverton Art Association and was an officer of the Rotary Club as well as a charter member of the Silverton Historical Society.

At the time of his death on July 9, 1986, he was a registered civil engineer and a registered professional surveyor.

Mr. Borland was also a talented artist and musician. At one time he had played violin with an orchestra in Pennsylvania. The Silverton Art Association honored his achievement in furthering our local artists as well as his own artistic talent by naming the art gallery, “The Borland Gallery.”

Our display includes samples of his art work and some of his surveying equipment that was recently donated to the Historical Society.





428 SOUTH WATER STREET
SILVERTON OR 97381

OFFICE PHONE 503-873-7070
EMAIL US
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!!

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Amy McKinley	Phyllis Bolton	Bob and Susan McGowan
Lance Kamstra		Kelly and Jim Miller
Kirsten and Tom Bartlett	Victoria Delaney	Patricia and Craig Jensen

In Memory of Jeff Lampa
—Cindy Lampa



Playing in Silver Creek

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