

Silverton Country Historical Society

Established in 1974

Over Forty-five Years of History in the Making



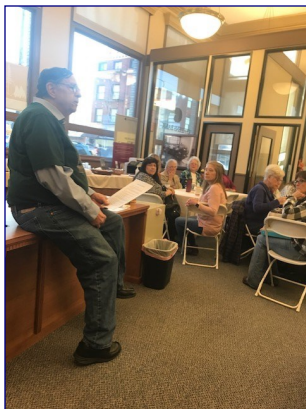
Museum and Office
428 South Water Street

SCHS Annual Meeting

Saturday, January 21, 2023—1:00 pm

Silverton Senior Center
115 Westfield St, Silverton

and Perry Production'
3) The label for the bottle



Fred shown here in November as he shared the history of the Coolidge McClaine Bank for Citizen Bank staff

As usual, there will be a brief business meeting for the purpose of electing officers, updating the membership on Historical Society activities and to answer your questions. This year we will have one board position that we will be filling.....and, after way too many years, Chris has decided to step down as Secretary. (She won't leave entirely, of course—she knows too many secrets....)

This year's program will be a power point presentation by Fred Parkinson, Historian Extraordinaire, sharing the history of the Coolidge McClaine Bank building on the corner of First and East Main. Fred will also include a few stories about the surrounding neighborhood.

We will also have on display our most recent acquisition of a Homer Davenport cartoon—See story below and on page 2.

Of course there will be refreshments and books for sale by our local historians. Let's see you there!!

See Who's Coming

Gus Frederick

Several years ago, I encountered a book from 1910 titled "A Cartoon History of Roosevelt's Career" by Albert Shaw. Knowing how many of Davenport's cartoons depicted Colonel Roosevelt, I naturally assumed that it would contain at least a couple. There turned out to be a total of ten Davenport cartoons. Several with Uncle Sam, including the famous "He's Good Enough for Me" piece. And after he left Hearst's employ, he never used the "Rough Rider" trope employed by many of his contemporaries.



But one cartoon attracted my attention more than any other, as it did not include Roosevelt at all. It showed a barren leafless tree, filled up with a multitude of different African animals. A monkey with a ladder running towards the tree was the only critter left on the ground. The caption was "HIST! See Who's Coming." It was published in the New York Mail on March 12, 1909, and was referencing Roosevelt's much publicized post-presidential extended safari to Africa.

Continued on Page 2

See Who's Coming (continued from page 1)

The detail of the animals was quite striking. Each could easily be identified with its real-life counter parts, (aside from the three monkeys, who were depicted anthropomorphically). Like so many of Davenport's originals, its fate was unknown. Until I received an email from Tania from the Digital History Projects Staff of the Oregon Historical Society.

She had been contacted by a gentleman from South Carolina that wanted to contact any Davenport family members to see if he could sell the original of that very same piece. He had financial issues, and decided to sell the original, but wanted to contact the family first. I put him in contact with Homer Davenport's great-granddaughter, Jill, who resides in Seattle. It turned out that it had a hand-written dedication by Homer to his eldest daughter Mildred, Jill's grandmother. The inscription for this piece reads:

"To my Best Girl, my darling Mildred, that she may ever fight against the wanton slaughter of animals is the hope of her father." [Signed] Homer Davenport, N.Y. March 22, 1909.

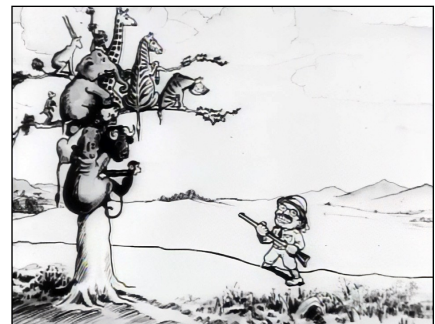
.....just ten days after it was published. Despite the implied "wanton slaughter" comment, Homer and Colonel Roosevelt remained close friends until his death in 1912. The asking price was too much for them, so they passed. I made a counter offer myself, but he had found another collector from Boston who agreed to the original price.

Several months later, I received an email from the South Carolinian, who recounted how the other collector turned out to be a scam artist, and he had to have law enforcement involved to get the cartoon back. He asked if I was still interested, and within a week, the 3 by 2-and-a-half foot framed "Look Who's Coming" arrived in Silverton! It joins the other Davenport originals in the collection of the Silverton Country History Museum.

Researching this cartoon revealed the following statement made by Davenport in reply to what he considered to be his best work:

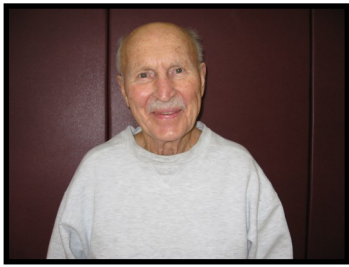
"There was a time when I thought 'He's Good Enough for Me' was the best thing I ever drew, but while it may be the most widely circulated cartoon ever printed, owing to the poster work it served for the Republican National Committee, yet it was not a great cartoon by any means. At other times I think some of the cartoons of mine used in the 1897 campaign were prize winners, and still at other times I think some of the reform cartoons are superior to any others of my creation. So it goes. However, I take a chance and send you what I now consider my best bit of work, 'See Who's Coming,' printed on the day Roosevelt sailed for Africa. I may change my mind next week, but this one right now appeals more strongly to me than does any other one I ever have made." – September 12, 1909

Additionally, I stumbled upon this short, 30 second animated film (on the Library of Congress website which was obviously inspired by this very same cartoon!) In it, the monkey on the ground jumps up and down excitedly, and runs up the tree, as a smallish dot appears in the distance, growing closer. It finally comes up over the hill as a smiling "Teddy Roosevelt" with a rifle. The animator is unknown and lost to history. This was less than five years before Winsor McCay's ground-breaking 1914 hand-drawn animated classic, "Gertie the Dinosaur."



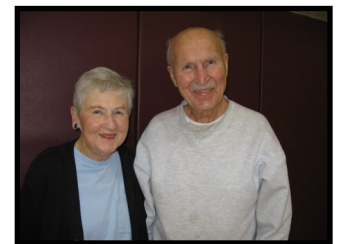
Just a reminder—Dues are due for 2023! You can pay at the annual meeting, but we will be sending out notices as well.

Kenneth Blust
1926—2022



In the Spring 2019 issue of our newsletter, we reported on the passing of Dolores Herr Blust. Now, today, we must share the passing of her dear husband Ken. In looking through our records here at the museum, I realized that it has been difficult over the years to chronicle the activities of just one of them, without the other one being near by! How lucky we were to get the sheer delight of those two dear souls together.

They were both born in Silverton, Ken in 1926, Dolores in 1928. Both were educators and their many other interests, developed over a lifetime of overseas work and travel, were boundless. We got the benefit of Ken’s experience in the aviation field when he wrote an excellent story for our April 2008 issue of the newsletter about Silverton’s first air mail delivery in 1938. Ken was able to recall the events of the day first hand, as his class was excused from school to experience the event. When Dolores served as a hostess at the museum, Ken usually spent his time at the library doing research, but he was always willing to sit with her if her hosting partner was unable to be there. Together they were a part of many museum projects—in fact the first time I met them was when we shared hosting duties at one of the historic homes open for the home tour. You could find them cleaning the museum, leading tours of third graders, manning our information booths and sharing stories of their lives and memories of growing up in Silverton at other museum events. How we miss them. How much richer our lives have been because of them.



It’s wonderful volunteers like the Blusts who help to make our museum a value to the community.

Do you love Silverton and want to know more about its history?

Do you enjoy meeting new people and working on satisfying projects?

How about offering up some time to be a volunteer at your Historical Society?



We always need volunteers to host at the museum to help us keep this resource of history and information available to the public. (One 3-hour shift, one weekend a month is all....) There are also opportunities to help with special projects: the Dime Toss at Homer Davenport Days, book sales, tour guiding, setting up displays.... Sometimes even just sitting and chatting with visitors and sharing stories of this terrific little town. Think about it...give us a call or email us to ask questions....or to just go ahead and sign up!

Museum message—503-873-7070 silverton.museum@live.com





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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!!



Betty Layne
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Christy Davis
Sue Tapia
Linda McClure Wiley
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Margo Drake Walker
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Justin and Sabrina Day and Family
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Bob and Marilyn Dedrick
Citizen's Bank
Terry and Patty Caster
Walt and Pamela Pelett

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Vacant	Past-Pres.
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Board Members

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

Postcard to Elmer Dick from his cousin Edgar