

# Silverton Country Historical Society

*Established in 1974*

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



*Museum and Office  
428 South Water Street*

## Moved and Changed and Possibly Forgotten

By Fred A. Parkinson

A couple of articles were written for our newsletter during the last few years that dealt with buildings that were moved and are still standing today. The articles detailed buildings that revolved around a central theme. The first story chronicled three historic homes owned by prominent Silvertonians. The second story recounted a truly amazing story about the schoolhouse that was moved three times and still survives today. Next up, is a home a person would have to carefully observe to identify.

It all started when an owner of a soon-to-open business contacted the museum with the intention of finding out a bit more about the town that will house the new business. There was a vague notion that the vintage house where the business will be located was, in fact, moved from its original location. This had been mentioned to a few people over the years, but the idea had never been formally researched. The theory was based on a grainy newspaper photo and caption seen during travels through our museum’s newspaper archive. The article was not saved, but it was probably from the 1960s. Also, the structure’s footprint seemed to generally match the form of the new business’s building.

Before formal research was begun, a Facebook group was consulted to see if anyone had information on the house that had been moved from North Water Street in order to build the original Nordic Motel (now Silverton Inn & Suites) in the 1960s. As it turned out, information gleaned from that thread would be instrumental in finding the info sought.

By examining early Sanborn maps and vintage aerial photographs, it was quickly determined that the original premise about the building was wrong. The building in question, the first of three buildings on the west side of North First Street between B and C Streets, clearly showed up on both the map and photographs well prior to the 1960s. Dismayed by this result, as it would have been an interesting story to tell the business owner about her building, research continued to determine to which lot the house on N. Water had actually been moved.



Two houses in 1963 on the site of the soon-to-be-built Nordic Motel  
Bottom floor of house on the right will be soon moved to N. Water Street

Curator's Corner

This Curator's Corner is more of an update instead of a special interest feature. This has been one of the busiest few weeks that I can remember since I began volunteering. Some of the news is good; however, there is a sad note.



The museum experienced a break in from a young man the 27<sup>th</sup> of January. The young man, who is homeless, broke the glass on the front door, reached in and unlocked the door, stepped in, and thankfully was scared off by the alarm. We are very grateful that the security system proved to be so effective, especially since I had been working at the museum the day before and worried that I had forgotten to lock the door.



Chris was able to replay the video on the living room camera and send it to the police who confirmed the identity of the person responsible. The City will repair the door and they are trying to match the leaded glass that was broken. He had also broken a window in the Chamber on his way to the museum. It is difficult for me to imagine that homelessness has become a problem in our town, but like so many other towns we are having to face this issue. Thankfully, so many of our local organizations are ready to help. In speaking of security, a representative of the company came to check the system and verify that one camera that is not working in the upstairs hall will need replacing. The museum is responsible for the cost of the camera.

On a high note we look forward to the repair and repainting of the upstairs bedroom. The room issues include several large cracks in the lath and plaster in the ceiling and walls. We noticed that they had become more of a problem after the roof had been replaced. In talking with the carpenter who will be doing the work he thinks that over time homes settle which could have also added to the problem. We have contracted with David Laycock of Renaissance Construction, who is the gentleman who did the work on the Observation Post around five years ago. We have talked about the opening of the museum in March and both Chris and I feel that we should go ahead with that date. If the work on the bedroom is not completed, we will limit visits to the ground floor. We are very certain that our school tours will be once again conducted this spring.

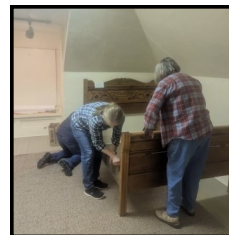


In preparation for the work on the bedroom to begin, we have emptied it out and I have been folding quilts and Christening dresses, many of which are well over a hundred years old and all sewn by hand. To me it makes what we do by preserving these precious artifacts so very important.



*Judy Lowery*

A big shout out to Carrie Caster, Tracy Duerst, Carolyn Hutton and Linda McKay who did all the heavy lifting and clearing out the bedroom in order to be ready for repairs!



## Moved and Changed and Possibly Forgotten

(Continued from Page 1)

In January 1963, Elmer Thompson bought two homes on the southeast corner of Park and North Water Streets with the intention of developing the property for commercial use. The January 17, 1963 *Silverton Appeal-Tribune* pictured the two homes and related one of the houses was being torn down and the other structure might be relocated to another site. A month later, the February 14, 1963 paper announced Thompson planned to build a motel on the property. Adjacent to the motel announcement, a photo depicted the second house being moved to a lot at First and "B" Streets that had been purchased from a local resident. Information from the Facebook thread stated that before the house was moved, the second story was removed, as was shown in the newspaper photo.



Reexamining maps and photos, it turned out that, as recently as 1957, there were structures on three of the four corners at First and B Streets. The lot at the S.E. corner was vacant. This lot seemed to be the logical landing place for the house. However, the structure located at that site today looks nothing like a remodeled bottom story from an early twentieth century building. It looks more like mid-century modern home construction with a side gable orientation, at least when viewed on Google maps street view, although the online view is somewhat obscured by foliage and a large sign. When personally viewed from the street, however, a very noticeable protrusion near the rear of the house was seen. This distinctive element shows up clearly in both grainy newspaper photos from 1963. This discovery was the first hint that this building might be the house in question.

A trip back to the newspapers was in order. A report of a building permit was quickly found, issued to Thompson for construction of a six-room dwelling at the address corresponding to the S. E. corner lot at First and B. Naturally, this was confusing as the permit seemed to imply the structure would be an entirely new house on the site which would refute the newly developed alternate theory. It was only after further examination that the answer to the fundamental question of where the moved house ended up became apparent. Three months later, the May 23, 1963 *Silverton Appeal-Tribune* reported a house, owned by Elmer Thompson, had been sold. The notice further related: ***"Thompson had moved the house from the site of his new motel building on North Water and completely remodeled it."***

"Completely remodeled" is quite the understatement. To the casual observer, the house looks much like any new home built during the 1960s. During the remodel, an entirely new attic with a side-gable roof was built. The house was also enlarged and a garage was attached to the north side. Who could have known that a turn-of-the-century Victorian house, complete with a distinctive curved dormer that was removed prior to its move, would be so remodeled as to become unrecognizable?

Former residents of the house, who lived there in the 1980s, related recently how the original wood floor of the second story was discovered in the attic during installation of a wood stove chimney. Also found was the space where the second-floor stairway had been situated. They had no idea of the building's history until they spoke with the owner, who confirmed the house had been relocated from N. Water Street.

Once again, armed with the resources available at our local museum, and with the help of other history enthusiasts on social media, the final location of the house relocated to make way for a motel was revealed. There are still several buildings in town needing to be detailed, most with no mystery attached to them. Those stories are yet to be written.

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### Hosts and Hostesses Needed!

We are looking for more volunteers to help us keep the Museum open to the public once we open up again in March. This is a great opportunity to share Silverton's history with the rest of the community. Our goal is to have a special orientation event for volunteer hosts, new and returning. Get in touch with us at:

(503) 873-7070 or [silverton.museum@live.org](mailto:silverton.museum@live.org).



## SCHS Annual Meeting January, 2023

One of our favorite events of the year is “history” again—the Annual Meeting. This is a time when we can meet old friends, make new ones, share our goals and feature our past year’s activities. The attendance was excellent, the cookies delicious, and our featured speaker, Fred Parkinson, was enthralling!

The business part of the meeting allowed us to update our membership on the overall status of the Society. Curator, Judy Lowery reported on our recent acquisitions and projects and Treasurer Tracy Duerst gave the financial review. Chris read the minutes of last years meeting and shared membership statistics....we are holding fairly steady at 165 memberships. Chris then introduced Carrie Caster, Volunteer of the Year, who was instrumental in many Society activities, especially the Instagram site development and spearheading the T-shirt sales. The business meeting was followed by a presentation by Fred Parkinson outlining the history of the Coolidge McClaine bank building and surrounding area.

Now.....on to 2023!



Board member Ruth Kaser oversees the refreshments, a vital part of the occasion!



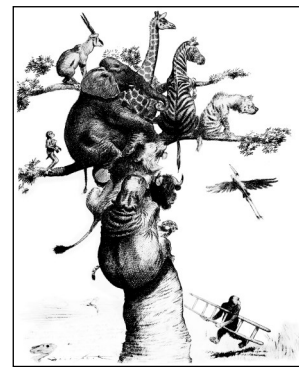
Membership Chairperson Kathy Hunter greets new member Marta Hazecamp.



Volunteer of the Year, Carrie Caster and our program presenter Fred Parkinson



A standing room only crowd enjoyed Fred’s PowerPoint presentation on Coolidge McClaine Bank history and the surrounding First and East Main area.



Another feature of the meeting was the display of our recent Homer Davenport cartoon: “See Who’s Coming” showing Roosevelt’s much publicized post-presidential extended safari to Africa.

## New SCHS Board Member



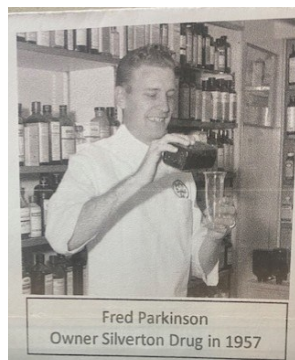
Our newest board member is another home-grown volunteer! Jeff Marcoe was born at Silverton Hospital and raised initially in Northeast Salem in the Middle Grove area, but in 1972, his parents Arnie and Carol Marcoe built their dream home on a five-acre rural parcel along the prairie near Central Howell. This move enabled Jeff and his younger sister Kim to be educated in the Silverton school district, which was strongly desired by their SHS alumni parents. Jeff graduated from Silverton Union High School in 1979. While there, he served as editor of the school newspaper, the Foxes Howl, and as president of the Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA), a prophetic combination given his subsequent career as a writer and senior executive in the chamber of commerce profession.

His proudest accomplishment in high school was securing school board approval for a school-sponsored senior class retreat day held at a park in the Columbia River Gorge shortly before graduation in May 1979. This successful retreat program continued at SHS for many years afterward. (Now you know who to thank, SHS grads!) His passion for writing, civic affairs, history, and news led Jeff to pursue a journalism degree at Oregon State University. While there, he worked as a reporter for the college newspaper and also secured two significant internships, one working for Oregon Governor Victor Atiyeh in 1982, and one working for US Senator Bob Packwood (R-Oregon) in Washington, DC, in 1984.

After college graduation, Jeff went to work as a writer and information specialist for the Salem Area Chamber of Commerce, where he interfaced with many of Salem's and Keizer's leading business and civic leaders. Jeff's two-year stint at the Salem Chamber led to a job interview with the national chamber in Washington, DC. They were looking to hire a young writer and they appreciated Jeff's previous experience working for Senator Packwood and also for a local chamber. He was hired and that began a 33-year career journey with the nation's premier business advocacy organization. During his DC career, Jeff met or worked with every US president from Ronald Reagan through President Obama.

On January 1, 2020, Jeff took early retirement from the US Chamber with plans to move back to Oregon to be near his aging parents. After a year of pandemic hibernation and getting settled in, Jeff gradually emerged to engage in Silverton civic life, serving as volunteer with the high school alumni association and the Silverton Historical Society. It is here that Jeff found a measure of grounding and excitement serving as a monthly docent at the museum and rekindling his passion for local history. It also has enabled him to connect and reconnect with a large number of community activists and volunteers in the greater Silverton area. And we feel very fortunate to have him!!!

*Fred R Parkinson*  
*June 12, 1929—January 5, 2023*



Fred at work.

Long time Silverton resident and SCHS member, Fred R. Parkinson passed away on January 5, 2023. Fred owned Silverton Drug on Oak Street for many years, served as Silverton council member then Mayor in the 1970's and was elected to the Oregon House of Representatives in 1980, serving six two-year terms. His family has generously donated memorabilia to the Museum over the years. A genuine Silverton icon, he will be missed.



Silverton Drug parking lot token



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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!!***

Cindy Lampa	Jules Martino	Gordon House Conservancy
Beth Negrey	Rick Christman	Andy Bellando
Nancy Korda	Marvin Thompson	Gray and Nancy Ohren
Victoria Delaney	Mary Rose Brandt	Justine Foogarty
Cindy Mote	Judith Imel	Marta Hazecamp
Marlene Hanson	Craig and Joan Clark	John and Carmen Smith
Nellie Graves	Vern Wolfard	Kelly and Jim Miller
Norman English	Linda McKay	Amy McKinley
Larry Brown	Barbara Marquam	Bill Kleeman
Lynne Radcliffe	Gail Joseph	Pamela Lindholm-Levy
Vicki Griggs	Ginney Heide	Tavis Bettoli-Lotten
Dave Harris	Dave and Ann Clites	Otto and Elsie Stadel
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Chris Schwab	Larry Thomas	Kate Schwab
Bill Predeek	Judy Lowery	Fred and Ruth Kaser
Jeff Marcoe	Danny Groah	Peter and Meg Thompson
Diane Roubal	Becky Harrison	Norma Thorkildson Halseth
Mary Ellen McCleary Fleck		

*Judy Lowery—In memory of Fred R. Parkinson*  
*Larry and Sharon Hento — In memory of Ernie and Eleanor Hento*

**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  
Jeff Marcoe  
Linda McKay  
Carrie Caster

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