

# Silverton Country Historical Society

Museum and Office 428 South Water Street



*As we continue with our look at the Silverton of 100 years ago, here is an excerpt from the front page of the May 27, 1910, Silvertonian Appeal. Remember, this story on honoring our veterans was published before there was World War I, WWII and all the others still to come. Please take the time to read it and reflect on how the sentiments expressed still hold so true today, 100 years later.....*

## Honor the Veterans

### Old Soldiers to Honor Memory of Departed Comrades on Monday, May 30th.

The G.A.R. post will hold the decoration exercises at Miller cemetery on Monday, May 30, and what is known as the memorial sermon will be preached in the Christian Church in this city on Sunday the 29<sup>th</sup>.

It has been the custom of this order to alternate these exercises between Silverton and Miller and this year it so happens that the Sunday exercises will be held in this city. The Post will go as a body to the church at 11 a.m. where the sermon will be delivered by Rev. Ford. After the services at the church they will go to the cemetery, where the regular ritualistic order of services will be carried out.

Each year the number of old veterans who meet to strew with flowers the graves of their departed comrades is noticeably smaller. In fact the rate at which they have been decreasing for the past few years is alarming and impresses us with the fact that in a very short time the last veteran will have answered the final roll call and all that will be left to remind us of their noble service will be the memory of their victories. They succeeded in preserving in its original glory the most equitable form of government known to man and willingly down to their posterity that of which every American citizen is justly proud—a free and independent government, undivided and abounding in rich blessing for all mankind. How well they succeeded as defenders against division, history readily proclaims in abundance, and what would have been the result had they failed in their mission can scarcely be imagined.

Now that the blessings of a free government is our heritage it becomes our duty to perpetuate it in its freedom and carry out the objects of the founders as near as possible. If we have failed, or if we do fail to do this, it simply reflects upon us and not upon those who underwent such hardships for the cause they loved.

In view of all these facts and out of gratitude for their services, we owe it to them to lay aside the cares of a busy life and give to them our presence on this, the only day in the year to which they lay any particular claim. Not only this, but we should not hesitate to strew flowers in the paths of those of the few who yet remain. It is not necessary to wait until the last one is gone to show signs of appreciation. Speak a cheering word to the old boys and in every way possible lighten their load. Fill their last days with as much sunshine as possible.

**The 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Monument at River View Cemetery in Portland, Oregon. The text on the monument reads: "The survivors of the 2nd Oregon U.S. Vol. Infantry erect this monument A.D. 1902 in memory of their fallen comrades. Service Philippine Islands 1898 - 1899"**  
(Photo by Andrew Fletcher)



*Have you turned in your 2010 census form?  
From the May 13, 1910 Silvertonian Appeal:*

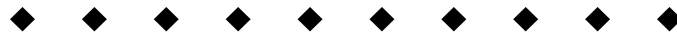
### **Blackerby Finishes enumeration**

P.L. Blackerby has finished the work of enumerating the citizens of Silverton. He is not in a position to give out any information regarding the result. The Appeal has kept pretty well in touch with the growth of the city during the past 10 years and we feel safe in saying the result will show that Silverton has a population of not less than 1600. The census of 1900 gave us but 656, and from this it can be seen that we have gained at the rate of almost 100 per year. The increase percent is nearly 150, and when we consider the fact that the greater part of this gain has been made in the past 4 years it seems almost marvelous.

Some towns which were ahead of us 10 years ago have had to step aside for us in our onward march, and where will they be ten years hence when the government census are taken again? As a matter of fact we have just started to grow. During all these years we have merely been laying the foundation for a city, and now that this is accomplished we have nothing to do but grow and become more and more useful as the years come and go.

### **SCHS Searches for New Curator**

The search is on for a replacement for our hardworking Curator, Carolyn Hutton, who has decided to step down after 10 years of dedicated service to our organization. Please consider taking on this exciting role in preserving Silverton's past. You would be working with an established group of very capable volunteers who are willing to help in any and every way. And if you step up early, you would have the benefit of Carolyn's vast experience as you are trained in the position. Please give us a call at the museum: (503) 873-7070 or call Carolyn at (503) 581-8337 to get all of your questions answered.



#### **SCHS Member Program for June**

**Researching Your Ancestors**

**Monday, June, 21, 2010**

**7:00 p.m. – Silverton Museum**

There will not be a member program in May, but for June we are planning a presentation that will be of great interest to many of our members. Roxanne Walstrom will offer particulars on the Silverton genealogy group, Ancestry Detectives, and will provide us with helpful information on researching our family members. Some of us may not want to know too much (!), but I think this will be exciting for the rest of us who are **not** harboring great-great-uncles who were horse thieves. Join us!

Ancestry Detectives meets from 10 a.m. to noon the second Tuesday of the month at Silver Falls Library, 410 S. Water Street, Silverton Oregon (503)873-2054.

### To Bob, who has gone to meet his Ancestors

It would start with the twinkle in his eyes. You'd wait for it, knowing that you were about to hear a story, a wry observation or just a hug as he whispered in your ear "You stayin' outta' trouble, kid?" I will miss that. I will miss the whole essence of Bob Nelson who passed away April 16, 2010.

At his Celebration of Life, as one by one they stood, telling Bob stories, you realized that that was what he was all about. He was making sure we would pass on the stories and that we would remember him. No problem with that one.....there were lots of stories to share, from his children, his oldest friend, his church family and his newest friend.

Bob loved Silverton and to those of us in the history business, there can be no greater story teller. To Chris Schwab and me, planning the museum programs, he was the not-so-secret, or silent, ingredient. We should have had a tape recorder ready to pin on his shirt the minute he walked in the door. All that was needed was for the speaker to mention the name of one of Silverton's City Fathers and Bob was ready. It seemed like he knew them all.

He had lived in Silverton since 1924. He was four years old and his first Silverton memory was watching Emerson School burn on Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>, the firefighters standing by, helplessly, because the water mains had frozen.

Bob was a paperboy, delivering papers to downtown stores when Deputy Iverson was shot and killed by robbers.

He had to have been somewhere in the vicinity (he just knew too many details) when the high school boys rolled a train car in front of the bridge so that nobody could get onto E. Main St. via W. Main St. That was an early day Halloween prank.



Bob's Service Station



He could tell stories of all the merchants during the late 1920's and 30's, being especially fond of Julius Alm. They would all talk to this little boy who would wander around town after school and who was, obviously, a really good listener.

So many stories in his lifetime and I am thankful to have captured him and a mere hours worth of his memories during an oral history. Now I can go back and listen to him again and catch the twinkle in his eye.

*Carolyn Hutton*

## Curator's Report May 2010

Okay, future curator. Time to step forward and make yourself known. We'd have 7 months to cross-train and you'd be ready to hit the ground running come January 2011. Keep in mind, I'll still be here to help out where and if needed, so it should be an easy transition.

On to the donations. This past month we received some great items for the museums collection:

- The Stubblefields of Albany donated a pair of Mallard ducks, carved by E.A. 'Ek' Huddleston. Ek was a man of many talents but is most remembered as a master carver. This adds to our collection of art created by Silverton's many artists.
- Jack Hande has uncovered more Red Sox ephemera and a booklet called Foxy Tymes ca. 1960's.
- Mark Twain's first year ledger book of students, attendance and parent's names and occupations. This was left on the front porch with no name attached so we'll send our thanks to 'Anonymous' via this newsletter and hope they see it.
- Ruth Kaser facilitated a donation from Don Olson of his book about the Marquam area. Some wonderful Coolidge & McClaine receipts and letters were brought in, circa 1886 to 1900. One of the letters introduces George Cusiter to A.F. McClaine at the Oregon Milling Co. Mr. Cusiter went on to become a merchant, Silverton's mayor, twice, and the recorder.
- Nellie Harrington Graves has donated her 'wings' pin that she earned when working in the Observation Post in the early 1950's.....the Cold War Era. This is a first for us in our ever growing collection of Observation Post history.
- Last but not least, we have Wm. 'Mac' McGinnis' gold pocket watch. His niece in Canada heard about us and made contact to see if we'd be interested in having it. Mac McGinnis worked for the Silver Falls Timber Co. but was especially well known, respected and revered as the manager of the Red Sox team. The down side is that Silverton didn't give him the watch but he's a part of Silverton history and the watch joins the rest of the Red Sox memorabilia.

The dining room chairs have been re-covered. One and one-half inch extra-firm foam and no rips or tears.....Oh comfort. Thanks to Robin Anderson for helping to pick out the fabric and to Chris and Gary Ohren for all the work of ripping off the old and putting on the new. The chairs look great!! Stop by some day and try them out. If we know you'll be in town, one of us will be here to greet you.

It's time for the school tours again. Third graders from Eugene Field will be here May 18<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, and 21<sup>st</sup>. Central Howell will be coming into town on May 26 and June 2. It's always a challenge to answer as many of their questions as we can and to challenge them to imagine the old days, pre-TV.

Seven months left....:)



## SCHS Yard Sale!!

We will be having our first yard sale in over 20 years on Saturday, August 7, during this year's Homer Davenport Days. Thank you to all of you who have donated items so far, but to be truly a success we will need lots more stuff! Give us a call if you have treasures you would like to donate to help us out.

Call the museum at 503-8373-7070 or Chris at 503-873-4529 and we will make arrangements to receive them. Thank you!



## April Member Program

Even though attendance was small, we had a very enjoyable member program in April, as Bill Predeek and Nancy Bochsler from the proposed Mt. Angel Historical Society met with us to give us information on how they are progressing with its formation. It was exciting to share their excitement as they told of the work they are doing. The group, which includes Brother Cyril from the Abbey, Sister Alberta from the convent, and Gary Edwards, has met 5 or 6 times to evaluate interest and to generate support. They have also had displays around town and at various events. Bill has collected photographs and information on Mt. Angel for some time and has developed a database chronicling them; he shared several items with us during the program.

If you have questions or if you have information on old Mt. Angel or items to share, you can reach Bill at 503-845-2464 or [predeek@mtangel.net](mailto:predeek@mtangel.net) or Nancy at 503-845-6338 or [dnjjw@mtangel.net](mailto:dnjjw@mtangel.net). We certainly wish them well.



## Monitor School Reunion

At the end of the 2010 school year Monitor Elementary School will be closing. An event is scheduled for Saturday, June 5 from noon to 3 p.m. at the school, located at 12465 Meridian Road. All former students, staff, friends and community members are invited to attend and share their memories of this local school. Lunch will be served at 12:30 p.m. Please let the staff know you are coming by May 26 and if you have stories or items to share you can contact the school:

[bodunov\\_natalia@silverfalls.k12.or.us](mailto:bodunov_natalia@silverfalls.k12.or.us)

[glaede\\_peggy@silverfalls.k12.or.us](mailto:glaede_peggy@silverfalls.k12.or.us) (to share your stories during the celebration)

(503)634-2421

Or Monitor School, 12465 Meridian Road, Mount Angel OR 97362



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*This color edition is for our on line members, please forward this email to your friends and relatives.*

**Silverton Strawberry Festival  
Sunday, June 20th, 2010  
Coolidge-McClaine Park**

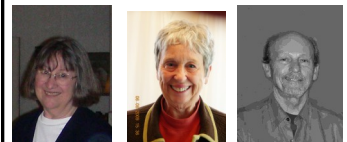
**Admission to Park is free  
Breakfast—8 to 11 a.m.— \$5 for all  
BBQ Chicken lunch— \$7  
Strawberry Shortcake all day—\$5**

Thank you to our new and renewing members!

Mary Ellen McCleary Fleck    Bill Predeek    Judy DeSantis  
Catherine T. Walker         Jon Digerness    MaryJo Moles  
Patti Lindquist               Paula McKinley  
Larsen-Flynn Insurance

And thank you for your generous donations—  
Tom Pelett                     Walt Pelett

Carolyn      Chris      Larry



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