

LANE
COUNTY
HISTORY
MUSEUM

the ARTIFACT

WINTER 2018 | NO. 226 | EXHIBITS, EVENTS, AND HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

Toys!



LOOKING FORWARD | PLAY COMES TO LIFE WITH TOYS! EXHIBIT | DIRECTOR'S CORNER
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WHAT DOES THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DO? | MEET OUR DIGITAL ARCHIVIST
2017 MUSEUM COLLECTION DONATIONS | THE MCHARDIE GOAT CART | GIVING IDEAS
WOULD YOU LIKE TO MAKE A DONATION?

LANE
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HISTORY
MUSEUM

EVERYTHING
YOU NEED
TO KNOW

WHEN AND WHERE
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-4am
740 West 13th Avenue, Eugene OR

CALL US
Office (541) 682-4242

TICKETS
Adults..... \$5
Seniors (60+)..... \$3
Youth (15-17)..... \$1
Kids (14 & under)..... FREE
Members..... FREE

Go to LHCM.org to learn more about free entry dates.

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BECOME A MEMBER
Sign up! The benefits include:

- Free admission to the museum
- Invitations to members-only events
- Discount at the Museum Store
- Discount on research requests
- Subscription to *The Artifact* and *Lane County Historian*

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SHOP AT THE MUSEUM STORE
Come by our store for new books, cards, post cards, posters, photos, old-fashioned toys, and much more! Inventory reduction sale- 50% off!

THE ARTIFACT IS PRODUCED BY:
LCHM Staff, Guests Contributors, and bell+funk

LOOKING FORWARD
JANUARY

30 **History Pub #4**
6:00-8:00 PM. Ninkasi HQ, UO Archaeologist Tom Connolly. “Kalapuya Archaeology: The Cultural Record of the Willamette Valley Before 1850.” Vinnie’s Smokin BBQ food truck.

FEBRUARY

10 **LCHS Annual Meeting**
1:00-4:00 PM, Fairgrounds Events Center, Performance: “Hard Way to the Valley” directed by Pete Peterson.

9-11 **Radio Redux**
Fri, Sat evenings @ 7:30, Sunday matinee @ 2:00 PM
Hult Center, “Stage Door”

17-18 **Asian Celebration**
Steve Williamson’s heritage panels will be on display, Lane County Events Center.

17-18 **Frontier Heritage Fair**
9:00-4:00. Fairgrounds Auditorium

27 **History Pub #5**
6:00-8:00 PM, Noble Estate Urban Tasting Room, Dr. Curtis Austin, Black History Month topic TBA, Vinnie’s Smokin BBQ food truck.

MARCH

3 **Board Game Party**
2:00 PM-4:00 PM, LCHM . Come celebrate play with board games. Bring your own board game or try some of ours. Fun family- friendly event for all ages. Free admission for event.

? **History Pub #6**
Additional information to be announced.

APRIL

? **History Pub #7**
Additional information to be announced.

11-13 **Oregon Heritage Conference**
Deschutes Historical Museum, Bend- “People. Place. Change.”
More information at oregonheritage.org

13-15 **Radio Redux**
Evenings at 7:30, Sunday matinee @ 2:00 PM. Hult Center, “The Shadow/My Client Curley,”

17-22 **Annual Pioneer Quilters Quilt Show Fundraiser**
10:00 AM-4:00 PM. LCHM. Quilts cover our entire museum during this week including workshops and demos. Watch for more information. Admission.



Toys! opening reception tour with Curator Faith Kreskey, Dec 15th

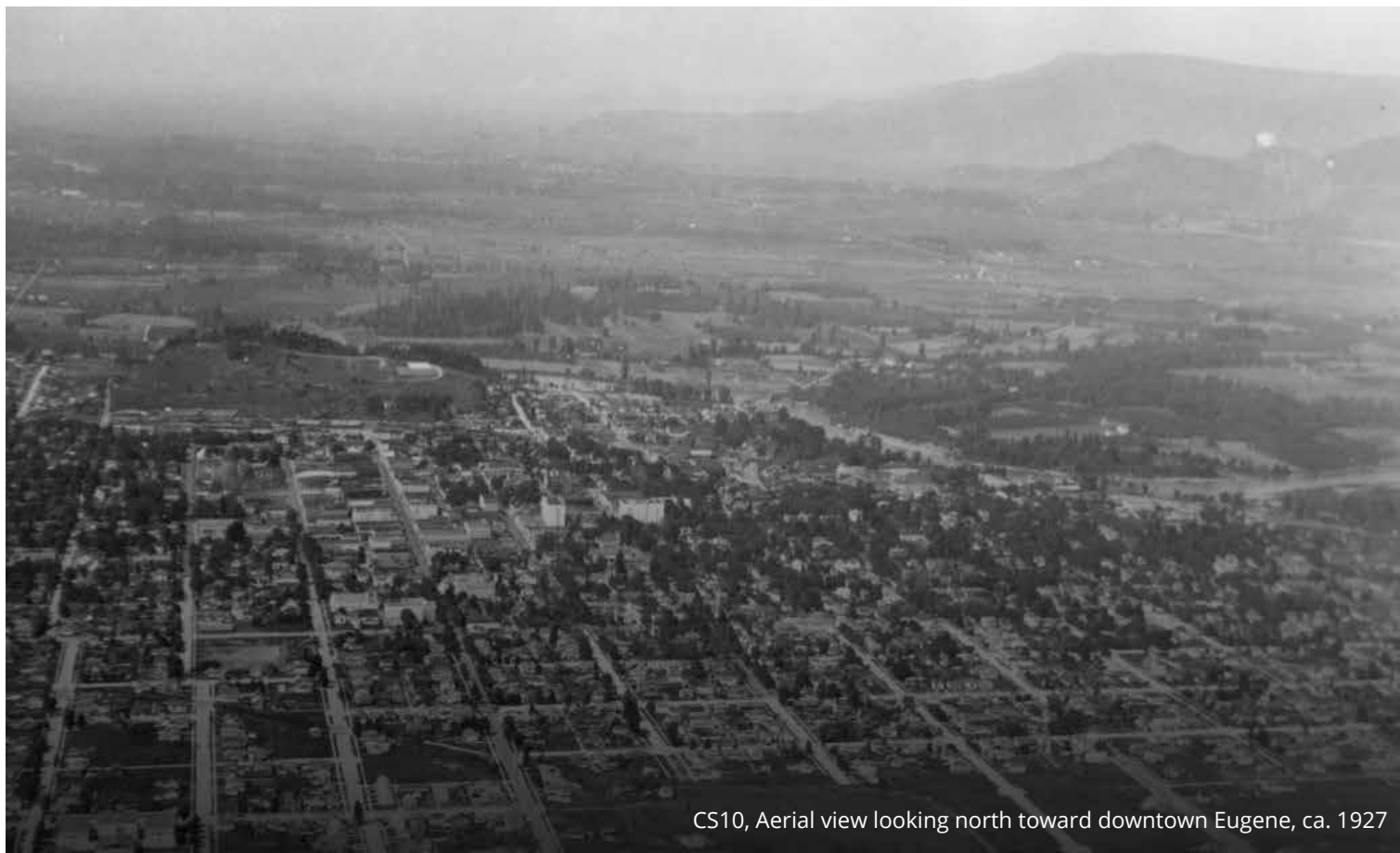
PLAY COMES TO LIFE AT THE TOYS! EXHIBIT
OPENING RECEPTION

WE ALL HAVE FOND MEMORIES OF HOURS SPENT AT PLAY, conjuring up stories and worlds with our toys. In a new exhibit at the Lane County History Museum visitors can walk through a delightful storybook toy store full of artifacts from our permanent collection. On December 15 visitors to our opening reception got a personal tour from our curator, Faith Kreskey and a great chance for questions and answers about the exhibit.

Visitors couldn’t take the toys home, but they left having learned how toys, games, and play changed between 1850 and 1950. They also enjoyed hundreds of photographs and artifacts, many on view for the first time. From children who made do with what they could find to those who were gifted with elaborate and expensive dolls imported from Europe, learn what it meant to be grow-up.

In its recent exhibits the Lane County History Museum has put a priority on featuring populations not often the focus of historic exhibitions and programming. Exhibits like *Rails Through Eugene*, *Uprooted* and *Their Hearts are in This Land* highlighted experiences of racial minorities. *Lost Towns* told the story of working-class loggers and their families and *Millinery in Lane County* examines an early industry dominated by female businesswomen. This exhibit continues to look for less told stories. *Toys! Historic Playthings of Lane County* will share the perspectives of the often overlooked participants in our local history: the children of Lane County.

Bring the family by the museum to see this new exhibit and watch for fun additional programming.



CS10, Aerial view looking north toward downtown Eugene, ca. 1927

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Bob Hart, Executive Director

THE MUSEUM'S NEW PAINT JOB COINCIDED WITH THE ADVENT OF THE RAINY SEASON. Our normally two coldest months are now with us and facility improvement efforts have now moved inside. The Museum has transitioned from fluorescent lighting to LED lighting and it's quite a change! Our colors are now far more vibrant and the brighter lighting is not as hard on the eyes or the museum's collections. The new lights emit less harmful ultraviolet light.

Our new *Toys!* exhibit is a delight for children and adults alike. Our museum store inventory reduction sale (50% off of everything!) is meant to help downsize our store. We will eventually concentrate on unique and local, as well as creating added exhibit space.

The annual meeting this year will feature not only the traditional cake celebrating Oregon's statehood, board elections, and grant and award recognition, but Pete Peterson's *Hard Road to the Valley* production relating the trials and tribulations of the Lost Wagon Train, presented by a troupe of readers representing historical characters. The meeting will be held in Fairgrounds Events Center meeting room #1 to accommodate the crowd.

2018 promises to hold opportunity and undoubted surprises. Our board members are benefiting from an Oregon Cultural Trust capacity-building grant, which has allowed us to hire consultant Sharon Leighty of Bend to help ready our board for a capital campaign in the 2019-2020 time frame. Sites under consideration last year included the Lane County Fairgrounds and the EWEB property. But the recent Obie Market District proposal has created renewed interest in possible acquisition of the downtown US Post Office as part of creating a cultural nexus on the city block next door to the Hult Center.



Museum holiday white elephant party, Dec 7th



KE2617, Heilig Theater Toy Matinee, Lions Club Annual Christmas Toy Drive, date unknown

In a unique town and gown partnership with the UO Dept. of History, we are trying to reach out to new audiences mixing scholars presenting their research in a pub or wine bar atmosphere. Beginning in October we have presented a pub a month; the next one will be held from 6:00-8:00 PM on January 30 at the Ninkasi headquarters building in the Whiteaker District. Dr. Tom Connally will be the speaker on the archaeological evidence for the local Kalapuya. Vinnie's Smokin BBQ has been our food truck of choice.

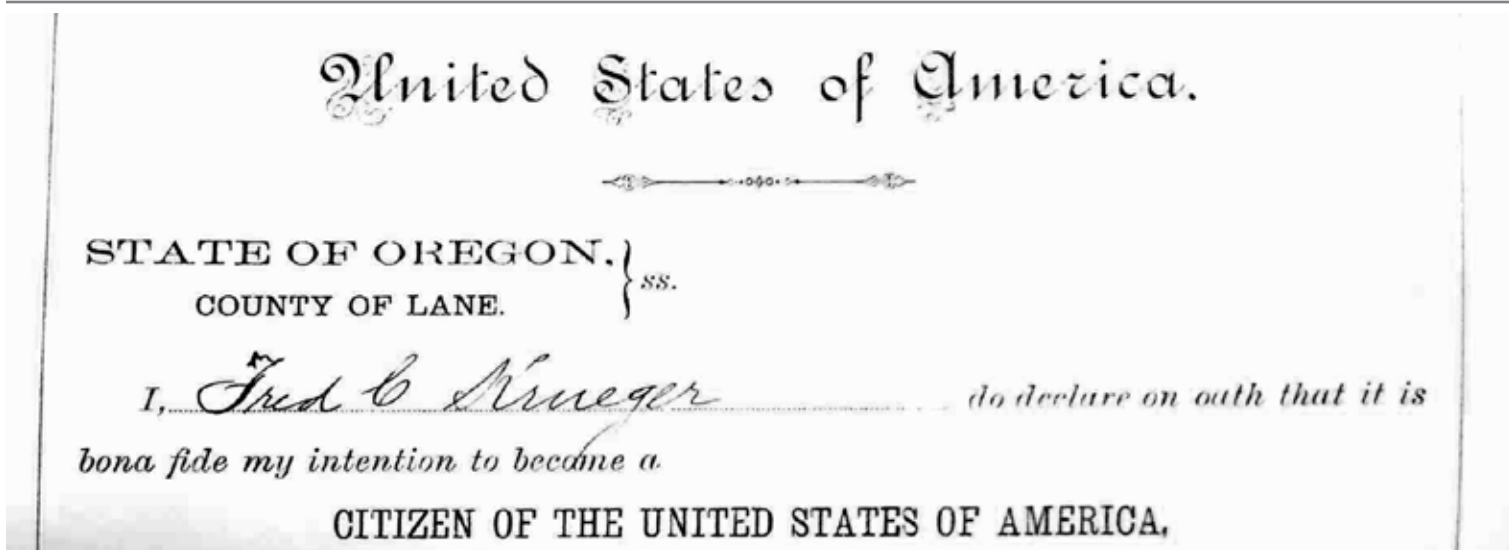
Our Museum staff continues to evolve. We lost the capable Robbie Chesnut to the U.S. Air Force in November, but have replaced him with the equally capable Nick Chase, formerly exhibit curator for DIVA. Nick will be the digital archivist running the Don Hunter Project.

As spring begins to peek around the corner, please look for some new signage on our museum building and the exciting possibility of one or more murals on our exterior walls.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Bob Hart".

Bob Hart



HERE TODAY, GONE TOMORROW or LANE COUNTY IMMIGRATION ADVENTURES

by Lee Harrison

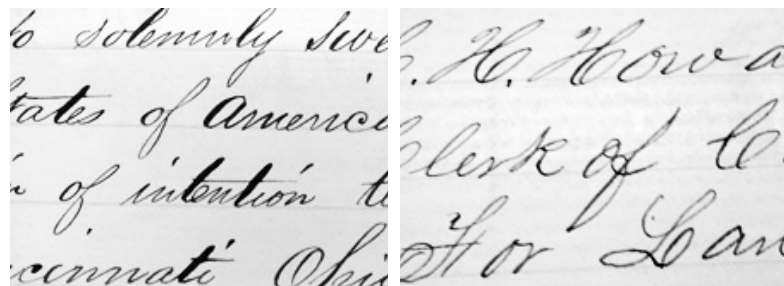
ON A FALL MORNING in September of 1912, Esy Rubenstein filed a Declaration of Intention with the Multnomah Circuit Court clerk, attesting his intention to remain in the US, and renouncing his allegiance to Russia's emperor. Esy gave "fruit vendor" as his occupation, but ten years later he would open his first furniture store in Lane County. Among familiar Lane County names, Frederick Cuthbert attended his petition hearing in April 1938, and Jens and Else Jeppesen attended Jen's hearing in May 1957. These steps in the naturalization process, very momentous to the immigrants, were recorded by Lane County Circuit Court clerks, who were required by Congress to document the arrival of all aliens. Lane County has transferred a collection of their naturalization records to the museum, with document dates ranging from 1834 through 1958.

This collection of immigration records transferred by Lane County consists of Declarations of Intention, Certificates of Citizenship, lists of petitioners' names, and the inevitable inter-office correspondence. To date, the earliest record found in this collection is a handwritten Declaration of Intention filed by Charles Wintzingerod in September 1839.

Above: Fred Krueger's citizenship papers

Right: Handwriting styles of past Lane County court clerks

Documentation from the naturalization process can be a wonderful genealogical resource, but because naturalization has never been required not all immigrants filed. It has been noted that of the foreign-born persons listed on the 1890 - 1930 censuses, 25% had not become naturalized or filed their "first papers." The paperwork sounds like it was a clerk's nightmare. A Justice Department investigator in 1903 stated, "I find the naturalization records in many cases in a chaotic condition, many lost and destroyed, and some sold for old paper. Most the records consist of merely the name and nativity of the alien with no means of identifying aliens of the same name....In numerous cases I find aliens naturalized under initials instead of Christian names, surnames misspelled or changed entirely, and names of witnesses inserted in place of the alien naturalized."



The first immigration law, passed in 1790, opened naturalization to anyone who was free . . . and white. Five years later, Congress introduced the Declaration of Intention as the first step in the naturalization process. In that same act, Congress required courts to record the entry of all aliens. Clerks recorded each immigrant's name, birthdate, birthplace, US residence, most recent foreign residence, port of emigration, name of vessel, date of arrival, and port of arrival. Some versions of the forms also required the occupation, height, weight, complexion, and hair and eye color. In 1870, naturalization became available to aliens of African nativity or descent. The Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, prohibited entry of "undesirables", and 1891 saw the passage of an act that restricted those described as "mentally disturbed persons, persons suffering from a 'loathsome or contagious' disease, paupers, persons convicted of a felony or infamous crime or misdemeanor of moral turpitude and polygamists". In 1903, the law further prohibited anarchists, people with epilepsy, beggars, and importers of prostitutes from entry. English became a requirement for naturalization in 1903, although fluency wasn't required. Immigrants who served in the armed forces of their adopted country during WWI were exempted from filing a Declaration of Intention.

The Expatriation Act of 1907 mandated that American women marrying immigrants would forfeit their US citizenship and assume the nationality of their husbands. It wasn't until 1922 that the Cable Act let American women retain their American citizenship if they married non-citizens after the act went into effect. Sadly, wives who had been expatriated were required to apply for naturalization if they wished to regain their citizenship. The museum's Immigration Records collection has about 25 records of wives filing for repatriation.

The most recent immigration legislation was passed in 2005, and among other provisions it cleared the way for the building of border barriers. Of the 284 catalogued documents that include a birth country, the UK accounts for 31.7%, with Canada adding 3.2%. Germany is next, with almost 30%. The remaining 35% included immigrants from Switzerland, Holland, Scandinavia, Poland, Russia, other European countries, and one immigrant from the Philippine Islands.

The pictures are of handwriting styles of the Lane County court clerks of the times. One is a Declaration of Intention from Lane County's very own Fred Krueger, who emigrated from Russia to Lane County in 1895.

We look forward to completing the cataloguing of this project, and discovering any remaining history tidbits still abiding in this collection.



Above: GN5113, Silas Russell, early Oregon immigrant who settled a claim in Jasper, OR.



Below: GN8687, Olaf Elnan, Norwegian immigrant who settled in the Deadwood area.

REFLECTIONS *by Trina Delgado*

I AM AN ANTHROPOLOGY MAJOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON. I came to the Lane County History Museum to get some hands-on experience with artifacts. My hope is to get some practical experience that will benefit my career choice.

I started my internship last fall, working with Tara Puyat, the museum's Artifacts Manager and Registrar. At first my responsibilities consisted of inventory and data entry. Data entry is a very long process, as all inventoried objects have a history. I work with other volunteers to input information about objects' location, condition, description, collector, and the accession number [definition: the number that the museum gives an object or collection when it is received]. Bluntly speaking, there is no real enjoyment looking at the original records and inputting missing information into PastPerfect, the museum's current database. However, I remind myself of the importance of data entry since collection records are the epicenter of the museum. My work alongside the other dedicated volunteers, has helped create an updated database of records for the museum.

Another aspect to museum work is the inventory of artifacts kept in storage areas. Related to data entry, I process all the details associated with an object – except in this case I get to handle the objects, which sparks my interest. Every artifact, from a chalkboard to a child's toy has importance at the Lane County History Museum, so care of these objects is the objective. Each box gets labeled and sorted with similar, category objects. The process can be time consuming, because mapping the details of each artifact needs to be as accurate as possible for confirmation and future inventories. Once the artifact is bound in layers of protective material, it is safely returned to its box and eventually replaced in its appropriate [documented] location.

The last few months of interning at the Lane County History Museum has transformed my perception of museum studies and captured career goals I want to pursue. I have gained a significant number of skills over the school term, which has created a better understanding of the expectations of my career choice. Interning at Lane County History Museum has been a new, exciting experience and I have learned that archaeological experience coincides with museum work in several areas. Both museum archaeological fieldwork require time and patience in evaluating artifacts. This is also the first time I have worked under the direct guidance of an experienced professional, which has helped me gain confidence in a professional setting. I understand the dedication and rigorous work that museum studies require, which leads me to anticipate being able to advance in museum work with my anthropology background. I credit the Lane County History Museum for giving me an opportunity and helping gain a greater understanding of museum studies.



Right: Volunteer Trina Delgado with Exhibits Curator Faith Kreskey



Left: Robbie Chestnut
Right: Robbie with other staff; L-R, Jennifer Yeh, Robbie Chesnut, Susan Richmond.

TRIBUTES TO ROBBIE CHESTNUT

IT'S SO OBVIOUS THAT ROBBIE HAS BEEN the "complete package" for LCHM's graphics and slide-scanning project that I'd rather talk about other things. He said once that he really liked to bring order out of chaos. And he got a big chaos when more than 100,000 additional slides of the total 170,000 slides arrived after the death of Don Hunter. The basic problem was that we had created cataloging codes and scanned more than 30,000, not realizing that many later ones would have to be interpolated. Robbie took the lead in figuring out how to do it. He also worked out plans to identify and scan the highlights of the collection first, so that the public could see them.

His voice: he talks slowly, carefully, reasonably, and quietly—showing respect to the other person. His phases: His beards and his head hair appearing and disappearing. The skateboards. The long bicycle trips. The gyms and learning to box. He came back after lunch one day and said something like this: "It's great to spend an hour getting beat up by somebody. What more could you ask out of life!"

His self-improvement and leisure: Teaching himself new skills with photo-editing software. Exploring children's literature. Reading German poetry in the original. Reading Shakespeare plays. And now the Air Force military police.

He was a great boss. I wish him well!

Dan Hodges
LCHM Volunteer, Don Hunter Collection

I WELCOME THE OPPORTUNITY TO WRITE an homage on the charming Mr. Robert Chestnut. When I took on the opportunity to volunteer to help with the Don Hunter Collection, Robbie had not yet come on board. Soon he'd settled in and took hold of the reigns, inventing, creating and enjoying the project... not to mention savoring the chance to interact with Don Hunter, himself, about the collection, in all its' provenance. Robbie truly enjoyed creating the newsletter and his artful eye never failed to inform and delight through his skills.

As we spent one day a week in the same space we enjoyed many discussions on art, history, graphics and cultural anomalies, not to mention the honor to be working together on the project. I always appreciated his respect for my ideas and insights. Like a shooting star spreading its' light on its way to unknown destinations so goes Robbie. I'm pleased to to have known his light I wish him happiness in his future pursuits.

Martha Snyder
LCHM Volunteer, Don Hunter Collection

Alice Parman, Volunteer



WHAT DOES THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE DO?

by Alice Parman, Committee Chair and Community Volunteer

A BOARD COMMITTEE WITH strong community membership focused on fundraising and visioning, the LCHM Development Committee has explored and nurtured visions of a future relocation for nearly two years. Board members Pat Costello, Randy Mafit, and Casey Barrett, along with consultant Wayne Parker and E.D. Bob Hart, have been especially active in this area. Working closely with fundraising consultant Sharon Leighty and staff, DC members, Bob Hart and Jennifer Yeh, the committee advises on fundraising activities and events. An active grant-writing team works to fund staff-identified priorities: community volunteer Bart Aikens, recently retired from several decades as a proposal writer for Deloitte, is joined by

Nicholas Chase, Digital Archivist



MEET OUR DIGITAL ARCHIVIST!

DEPARTING JACK OF ALL TRADES Robbie Chesnut had barely two partial weeks of overlap to introduce Digital Archivist Nick Chase to his new workspace, volunteers, and duties. Yet Nick has already established himself as a gifted and quietly hard-driving member of the talented museum staff. Nick is an Oregon native who has bounced around both the country and internationally. Born in Roseburg, Nick attended elementary school in Eugene, high schools in Portland, as well as the International School in Damascus, Syria; college at the UO majoring in German, and received an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts.

Former Ducks are reputed to follow football, but in Nick's case the international football is known as soccer in the U.S. Nick's primary passion, however, is music. His mom was an art teacher and as the guinea pig for her class projects, he experienced broad exposure to the arts in general. He has three sisters, two older and one younger.

Pioneer family ties (Spencers, Longs and Gorthys) and their associated treasure troves of stories and materials brought him back to Eugene. In 2008 and 2009 he was the exhibits director for DIVA (Downtown

"What Does the Development Committee Do?" - continued from page 10

Alyssa Vitale, graduate student in the UO's Planning, Public Policy and Management program. Another PPPM graduate student and UO MBA grad, Hatsue Sato, and community volunteer Eric Dil, an experienced arts and culture consultant, bring their expertise to the committee and are working with the Jefferson-Westside Neighborhood Association to plan a joint special event in 2018. Developer Steve Graves joined us in January.

"Meet our Digital Archivist!" - continued from page 10

Initiative for the Visual Arts). In this capacity he was able to compose, as in music, but in a more universal sense. Well-done exhibitry is a weave of artistry and creativity. He left DIVA to attend Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, intending to acquire a Ph.D. in an experimental art program. But his MFA was ultimately granted by the California Institute of the Arts (Santa Clarita, CA). He contrasted CalArts and RPI by pointing out that at CalArts all of the arts disciplines were encompassed in a single building, fostering ferment and creativity, rather than isolated in other structures.

Don Hunter was not a name known to Nick before interviewing at LCHM. But the Hunter Collection represents one of those family treasure troves that brought him back to Eugene from his broader travels. Both troubled and challenged by the current youthful disconnect with history, his museum goal, nay mission, is to use his life skills to make digital resources readily available to a broad audience. This is his contribution to culture, humanity and the planet.

MUSEUM STORE INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Everything is 50% off!



LANE
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MUSEUM COLLECTION DONATIONS, 2017

We are grateful to those who have donated to our museum collections in 2017. Since LCHM has no acquisitions budget, we rely on donors from the community to contribute artifacts, maps, documents and photographs which enhance our understanding of Lane County’s history. Unfortunately, we are almost out of storage space so we have to be very selective in what we take, but we welcome calls and emails from community members asking if we might be interested in a historical artifact or documents from their family, organization or business. Please feel free to contact Cheryl Roffe (research@lchm.org) or Tara Puyat (registrar@lchm.org) for an Acquisitions Review form, which will then be presented to our Acquisitions Review Committee. We cannot accept walk-in donations.

THANK YOU TO OUR 2017 DONORS:

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Jennifer S. Wouda

HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS

This carbide miner’s lantern was made in the USA c. 1930s. While it was intended for use in mining, its owner, Chester Stevenson Jr. used it during his time in the Boy Scouts in Eugene, Oregon. Only the lantern knows what adventures it has been a part of. Chester is a member and financial donor in addition to a valuable volunteer here at the museum.



Carbide Miner’s Lantern



HIGHLIGHTED ITEMS

This complete WWII Navy winter uniform was worn by Robert Eugene “Gene” Harries, a graduate of South Eugene High School, who joined the Navy after graduation. After the war Gene worked for the Eugene Post Office as an expeditor until retirement. In addition to the uniform we have photographs and correspondence from his bootcamp days in Farragut, Idaho and service on the USS Allendale. The uniform and archival collection was donated by his wife Betty J. Harries.



Above: Eugene “Gene” Harries donated uniform
Right: Ms. Collection 726.001_C, Robert Eugene “Gene” Harries in uniform

RESEARCH CORNER

An archival photo got our goat!

THANKS TO AN OBSERVANT EUGENE RESIDENT, we now have new information about a fun photograph from our collection. The photograph above was thought to be of Aletha and Pearl Morris in their family’s goat cart taken in the late 19th century. The photograph caught the eye of Nancy Barnhart, who has a photo in her collection that shows members of her family in an identical goat cart drawn by a male goat with very specific markings. She brought her photograph to the museum, and our staff were intrigued by this mystery.

This same goat has now been identified in several other photographs taken up and down the west coast. The photograph provided by Barnhart includes her mother and aunt, Betty and Barbara McHardie from Seattle, WA, born in 1919 and 1916 respectively. While the family traveled to Portland for a visit with relatives who lived there, no connection could be made with Lane County. We now believe the photograph in our collection was the work of a traveling photographer that would go door-to-door selling staged photographs with children in his goat cart to parents. We were unable to determine the name of the photographer or where they might have lived.

Thanks to Nancy Barnhart providing us with the research she collected while working on her family genealogy, we now know that the photograph is indeed of Aletha Mae “Lee” Miller (Morris) and Pearl Jessie Stocker (Morris) but it most certainly does not date to the 19th century. Based on Aletha and Pearl’s birth dates, the picture was most like taken in the 1920s.

Our photograph collection can be searched from our website at lchm.org by search terms. Do we have photographs linked to your family? Searching by last name is an easy way to find out.



Above: Aletha Miller (Morris) and Pearl Stocker (Morris) posing in in the cart of a traveling photographer c. 1920s. (GN8012)
Below: The McHardie sisters: Betty, age 4 (left) and Barbara, age 7 (right). Photograph taken in the same cart in 1923.

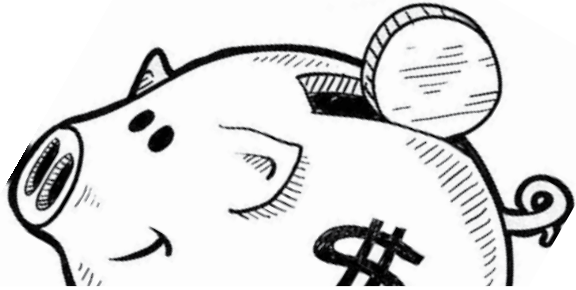
GIVING IDEAS FOR LANE COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

EACH YEAR MILLIONS OF AMERICANS make gifts in support of charitable purposes of their choice. In today’s environment, these gifts are more important than ever in helping fund the work of charitable entities like Lane County History Museum. Many have found that time spent considering the best ways to structure their gifts can help them make meaningful contributions while meeting personal planning goals as well.

- You will discover ways to make gifts to Lane County History Museum you may not have thought possible.
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Please return this form with your check or payment to:
Lane County Historical Society, PO Box 5407, Eugene, OR 97405-3819.

To make a gift online, visit lchm.org. Questions? Please call 541.682.4242 or email volunteers@lchm.org

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PETE PETERSON'S

HARD WAY TO THE VALLEY

AT LANE COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
ANNUAL MEETING
February 10 • 1-4 PM • Lane County Fairgrounds