LOOKING FORWARD

OCTOBER

14
History Pub
Dr. Richard Etulain: *Lincoln and Oregon*
Viking Braggot Southtowne. Doors at 6, program at 7.

23
History Trivia: *Halloween*
5:30-7:00 pm. Dark & Stormy, 420 Main St, Springfield.
Compete for Prizes and Pride!

NOVEMBER

6
History Trivia: *Our Town: Local Businesses and Events from the Past*
5:30-7:00 pm. 5th St. Public Market Eateries
Compete for Prizes and Pride!

11
History Pub
Dr. Nancy Langston: *A Voyage to Mongolia’s Reindeer Herders: Conservation in a Changing Climate*
Viking Braggot Southtowne. Doors at 6, program at 7.

28
Museum Closed - Thanksgiving Holiday

DECEMBER

9
History Pub
Speaker TBA
Viking Braggot Southtowne. Doors at 6, program at 7.

25
Museum Closed - Christmas Holiday
The dramatic turn from summer to fall has been both a surprise and wet! Thanksgiving and Christmas will be upon us before we know it.

September is a month filled with both institutional and organizational deadlines. Grant reports, grant-funded projects, and annual reports have occupied center stage for our staff for weeks now.

This year we are composing a new format annual report. Formerly it was a recitation of facts and figures, outlining our custodial relationship with the county’s building and collections. Our talented Digital Department folks, both Nick and Stephen, have designed and created an attractive presentation far easier to digest than its predecessor. The new format is designed to inform both county commissioners and museum members. You can read the annual report online at lchm.org/annual-report.

The spring fundraising campaign for our exterior improvement has been successful and approaches our ambitious goal of $11,500 for the first phase of the project. New signage with the LCHM logo and updated marketing image have been put up. The clerk’s building is now backstopped by the 1859 Danforth lithograph showing the Eugene community at the time of Oregon's inauguration to statehood.

Dr. Condon's last scheduled appearance is on September 26th, and Bob's beard will disappear before the month is out. Do you remember what he looked like before the long beard? Or will you try and introduce yourself to that new fellow who looks vaguely familiar?

Happy Holidays to all!

Sincerely,

Bob Hart
My grandmother, Hallie Hills Huntington, was born May 20, 1898 on the 400-acre family farm near Jasper, a town named after her father. The granddaughter of Oregon pioneers Cornelius Hills and Sephronia Briggs, red-headed Hallie hit the ground running and didn’t stop until 96 years later. Hallie was a skilled hunter, mountain guide, cook, passionate historian and writer, tireless organizer and volunteer, involved wife, mother, sister, and friend to many. Her immediate family called her Namby. The family remember her as full of fun, a jolly companion, a woman of strong opinions, quick with praise or a reprimand if warranted, wonderful hostess, and an inventive storyteller.

Young, Hallie lived on Winberry Creek where her father had a big logging contract. For Hallie, the mountains were a paradise where she learned to shoot, ride, shoe horses and settle a pack on a horse. She could do these things as well as she could cook and tell stories. Often her Dad’s sidekick in the woods, Hallie learned forestry and logging. She developed her sense of social responsibility and appreciation of teamwork in the timber camps, and as an adult remained very involved in the promotion and support of the industry.

A teenager during WWI, Hallie became a proud, certified nursing volunteer with the Red Cross, and also began to knit mountains of wonderful wool socks to send to the soldiers fighting in Europe. In later years she knitted sweaters, dresses, coats, hats—she’d tackle anything. Like her mother and grandmother, Flora and Sephronia, Hallie’s hands were rarely idle.

Hallie loved learning. She attended Lincoln High School and business college in Portland. She said of her early education that, when she learned to read and write, it opened the world to her, and after that she was never bored. After graduation, she worked for a Portland attorney, but returned to the mountains to take care of her mother when she became ill. After the war, Hallie was happy helping her Dad when he retired from logging at
the Bear’s Den, the Dude Ranch he built and operated near Oakridge.

Summer 1919, University of Oregon Coach Bill Hayward came to the Bear’s Den on his honeymoon. Also on the trip among Hayward’s friends and members of his team, was a young, handsome football hero, Charles A. “Shy” Huntington. Hallie was impressed with Shy’s strength and gentle disposition, not to mention his movie star good looks, when he helped her with a horse that had tangled with a log. Each night thereafter they moved closer and closer to each other around the campfire. They married in 1921.

On the way to her wedding in Eugene, flood waters rose and covered the bridge to the train station. Not to be stopped by the elements, Hallie clambered over a log downed across the creek in her traveling clothes while carrying her suitcase! She and Shy honeymooned in Hawaii where the U of O football team were playing their first Rosebowl. Hallie wrote of her honeymoon: “Shy always said I married him just to get a trip to the Hawaiian Islands!”

Shy and Hallie set up in Eugene where he soon became football coach at the U of O and was later a partner in Manerud-Huntington Fuel Company. Hallie owned and operated a gift store near the Eugene Hotel. Their daughter Barbara was born in 1925, and son Charles in 1927. Hallie then began a long career of service to the community and public relations work.

In my teens, I remember her in the kitchen holding the phone to her ear with one hand, stirring a pot with the other, stopping to write notes on her ever-present legal pad, motioning for me to take a cookie to hold me till dinner.

At her funeral in 1994, I was reading a list of over twenty organizations she belonged to, and had performed as president, member, board member, and/or administrative secretary. After the ceremony, a woman introduced herself and mentioned another organization which I cannot remember. “Dear,” she said, “… we were so proud to have had her among us.”

My grandmother cared deeply about a way of life that she knew was passing. She wanted to preserve as much of her pioneer family’s history as possible and turned her efforts to getting a replica of Skinner’s cabin for the park in Eugene, restoring the Masonic Cemetery, and working with the Lane County History Museum of which she was a founder, board member, and secretary for many years. Hallie had written for magazines and organizations all of her career, but her feeling for family and her wish that they be remembered generated an interest in genealogy which lead her to write a vivid history of the Hills Family in America entitled All the Way West. She wrote with absolute dedication—like she did everything in her life.

Sitting at her typewriter among her books in the den at their ranch outside Eugene, she also wrote four chapbooks of poetry, and many short stories and sketches. All were insightful, usually poignant and funny, and always entertaining. Sometimes now when I think of her, I remember the sound of her typewriter in the other room.
The Commercial Club of Eugene was founded in 1902 as a civic organization that combined a chamber of commerce with a social club. One of their earliest actions was a public opposition to prohibition in 1904. Aside from occasional political activities, the group focused on promoting good will in the local community.

This all changed on October 15, 1912 when Edgar B. Piper, editor of the Oregonian, wrote a glowing article about the completion of the Oregon Electric Railway line, which boasted the first daily trains between Eugene and Portland: “Today [Eugene] is marked on the map of Oregon as a point of radiation of traffic that fixes its status...The advent of the Oregon Electric Railway marks...Eugene's second birth.” The Southern Pacific and Oregon Eastern railroads also had lines through Eugene, making it a central hub for rail transport to the rest of the state. Capitalizing on this publicity, Eugene's Mayor D.E. Yoran coopted Piper's Oregonian headline, promoting Eugene as “City of Radiation.”
Yoran and Commercial Club member M.J. Duryea selected members of the Commercial Club to join the Eugene Radiators, Eugene’s first marching club. Marching clubs were drill teams particular to the early 20th century, who promoted civic pride by visiting other towns and participating in local festivals and competitions like the Portland Rose Festival, the Roseburg Strawberry Festival, or the Pasadena Parade of Roses. These clubs took marching very seriously, and would have a drum corps, matching uniforms, specially commissioned songs, and cheers. The Eugene Radiators held monthly marching practice on the grounds of what is now O’Hara Catholic School throughout the 1910s and 1920s.

The Radiators were still active in the late 1930s, but by the 1940s the popularity of marching clubs was in decline. The group was unable to attract new members, and they dissolved officially in 1953 after the death of D.E. Yoran.

*Piper, Edgar B. “The City of Radiation.” Morning Oregonian, October 15, 1912, Page 8. <https://oregononnews.oregon.edu/lccn/sn83025138/1912-10-15/ed-1/seq-8/#index=0&rows=20&protext=a+point+of+radiation+of+traffic&searchType=basic&sequence=0&words=point+radiation+traffic&page=1>
Eugene's Radiators are a forgotten part of local history. They would eventually become Eugene's Chamber of Commerce, but the road from marching club to civic organization was a story that had been lost.

Our Radiator odyssey began in February 2018 as exhibits curator Faith Kreskey and I were rooting around the oversized photo collection in the archives looking for something when we were distracted by a large, rolled document in a box. It took three people to unroll it, but it turned out to be a panoramic photo roughly eighteen inches high by three feet long.

Unlike other panoramic photos in our collection, it wasn’t of scenery or of a city: it was a picture of a single row of men in uniform suits and bowler hats, standing at attention next to a banner of arms that read “RADIATORS.”

There was no explanation for the photo. The description in the museum database reads: *Wide-angle photograph of the Eugene “Radiators” booster club at the Railroad Jubilee held in Coos Bay, Oregon, August 24th through 26th, 1916. Jubilee celebrated the extension of the Southern Pacific Railroad line from Eugene to Coos Bay...*

For some months this is all we knew about the Radiators. Kreskey uncovered a brochure by Morris J. Duryea of the Eugene Commercial Club that talked about the many businesses found in Eugene around 1914. Around this same time, the Digital Lab was planning the Map Digitization Project (now-in-full-swing) and experimenting with flat-document photography. I asked Archivist and Librarian Cheryl Roffe to pull a scrap book to use as a guinea pig. In the lab, I opened the leather-bound scrap book carefully, my attention on photo-studio lights, camera angles and parallel planes, and expecting to unfold the usual collection of hundred-year-old photos. Turning back the cover revealed, to my surprise, a blue, watermark-embossed onionskin page bearing the words

**EUGENE COMMERCIAL CLUB**
**PROMOTION DEPARTMENT**
**MORRIS J. DURYEA, MANAGER**

In the upper left corner of the paper in deep blue ink was an etching of a city skyline under the words “City of Radiation.” The book is still uncatalogued in our collection, but the individual photos inside are. The photos are of Lane County farm and timber businesses, among them Arp’s Dairy and an un-named vineyard.

More spectacular than the rest however, is the luggage sticker pasted to the bottom left of Duryea’s letter, and on the pages facing each photograph. The sticker is bright orange, green and indigo and features three railroads barreling away from a cosmopolitan city skyline. Behind that metropolis, a glowing orange and green sun drops behind silhouetted mountain peaks in indigo.

The vivid Radiator travel sticker is startling among the monochrome images I’m used to handling at the museum. From my perspective as an artist and illustrator, it looks contemporary, vibrant, exciting, and recalls—or foreshadows—Eugene as *The Emerald Empire*, before Seattle coopted the title dubbing themselves *The Emerald City*.

As it turns out, travel stickers, also known as luggage stamps, were a big deal around the turn of the 20th
Century. Luggage stickers were stuck to trunks and suitcases at train depots, and were considered collector's items for the well-travelled. The peak of luggage sticker mania seems to have been in the 1920s when hotels got in on the act. For Eugene to proclaim itself with an original travel sticker was very forward-looking, and reveals the youthful push behind Eugene's local commerce at the time.

As Marketing Director at the Museum, I couldn't pass up the opportunity to use the piece for promotion. Staff Graphic Artist Stephen O'Brien made up the drink coasters you will find at our Trivia Nights and History Pub—you might notice how easily they sit next to coasters with newer graphics.

For our 2018/19 general advertising campaign, O'Brien developed the graphic to include Lane County's coast and Cascades, and retained the Radiator's fantastical valley-city skyline. Tweaking the concept a little, I riffed on Eugene's old Emerald Empire identity and suggested that the advertising graphic should morph from monochromatic sepia, to full, radiant (sic!) technicolor, to suggest the idea of the past marching into the present.

The visual concept matched the Our Stories slogan, pulled from the Museum's charter, "Documenting, preserving and interpreting our stories." ( "This unofficial charter is paraphrased from the Lane County Historical Society’s mission statement: “...to collect, preserve research, publish and exhibit the history of Lane County...”).

If the luggage sticker intrigues you, surf the link below to get a bigger eyeful of more art from the era.

Art of the Luggage Label
https://tinyurl.com/artofluggagelabel

Photos clockwise from left:
M. L. Duryea’s letter from the Eugene Commercial Club.
Detail of The City of Radiation luggage sticker.
Examples of 1920s luggage stickers in similar color schemes (orange and indigo): Hotel Kaiserhof, Munich Germany (sourced from Art of the Luggage Sticker) Cornish Riviera Express (sourced from National Railway Museum blog, UK).
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Left: GN279, View of Eugene area from Gillespie Butte looking east, c.1905.
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