

# The Artifact

Lane County  
HISTORICAL  
MUSEUM

SUMMER 2017 No. 224

Exhibits, events, and historical goings-on



Director's Corner • Fresh Perspectives on Native American History • My Collections Field Trip  
Lane County Historical Museum: A Whole New Era • Along The Long Tom River  
Journey from Indiana to Oregon • A County Legacy • Volunteer Highlight • Membership and Donations



## When and Where

Tuesday – Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM  
740 West 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR

## How much

Adults .....\$5  
Seniors (60+)..... \$3  
Youth (15–17).....\$1.00  
Kids (14 & under)..... FREE  
Members..... FREE

\*See website for free entry dates\*

## Call us

Office..... 541.682.4242

## Our web presence

- lchm.org
- facebook.com/lchm.org/
- flickr.com/photos/lanehistory/
- youtube.com/c/LchmOrg

## Become a Member

Sign up! The benefits include:

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

## Board of Directors

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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!

## The Artifact is produced by:

- Editor & Design:  
graphics@lchm.org
- LCHM staff members
- Guest contributors

# LOOKING FORWARD

## ***Their Hearts Are in This Land: Native Resilience in Western Oregon***

Exhibit is on display through June 1, 2018. Created by University of Oregon exhibit design students, this exhibit is about Native American life and uses a mix of historic photos, contemporary, and artifacts.

## ***Lost Towns: Revisiting Logging Communities***

Exhibit is on display through November 04, 2017. Travel back in time and see what life was like for working class families in Lane County through photographs, oral history, and our collection of logging tools.



## JULY

19–23.... **Lane County Fair at the Lane County Fairgrounds**

Museum entry is FREE during the Lane County Fair.

Hours during Fair: 10AM – 6PM (Tuesday, July 19 – Sunday, July 23)

## SEPTEMBER

4..... **Labor Day** - Museum Closed

15..... **Time-Traveling Tots** (A free Pre-K/K program)

## OCTOBER

7..... **Historic Homes Tour & Reception**

Tour limited to 20 people. \$20 per person or \$35 per couple.

A collaborative event with the Singing Creek Educational Center.  
Call 541.682.4242 to register. Watch for additional information.

14..... **Author Talk - *Eugeneana: Memoir of an Oregon Town***

By A. Lynn Ash. The author will discuss her memories of growing up in post-war Eugene. LCHM, 2:00 PM, FREE

## NOVEMBER

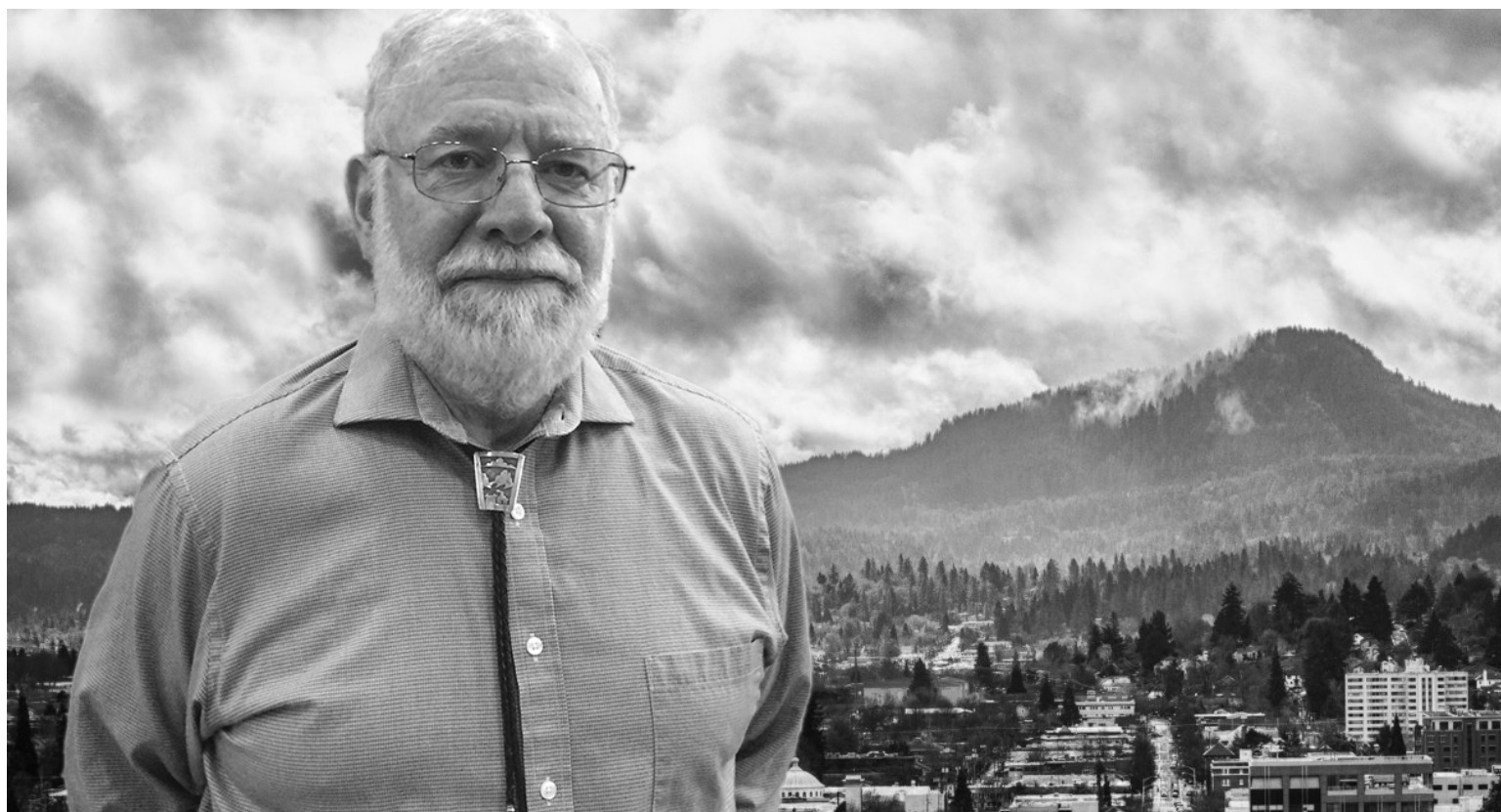
4..... **Author Talk - *Massacred for Gold***

By Gregory Nokes, LCHM, 2:00PM, FREE

Front Cover: *Studies of trees in pencil and in water colors*, J. Needham; 1895



# DIRECTOR'S CORNER



Our board and staff will be engaged in a capacity-building project over the next few years. We are investing in professional help to bring all aspects of museum governance, staffing, and care to a higher standard before we undertake a capital campaign that we anticipate launching in 2019–2020.

Our current outdated facility has long been in need of replacement. Over the years our boards have considered buildings and sites ranging from the old Sears Building downtown to the Bohemia Park in Cottage Grove. Architectural plans were actually drafted for Eugene's Post Office before it was taken off the market.

At least three options seem possible at the moment, but two are clearly in floodplains and are less desirable for that reason (the EWEB site and the Glenwood area). The leading contender for our attention is potentially relocating along 13th Avenue within the Fairgrounds, on the site formerly occupied by the Extension Service and stretching between the Wheeler Pavilion and the Ice Arena access road. It is county land, 2.5 acres in size, and can possibly be acquired with a land swap.

We envision at least a 40,000-square-foot building, with 12,000 square feet devoted to collections storage. A phased approach, addressing the museum's most crucial need-storage space- would see a Phase I collections storage building constructed first, with the bells and whistles following in a Phase II main museum building, built when funds allow.

Please help us acquire this parcel of land. Let the Fair Board (541.682.6900) and your county commissioner ([www.lanecounty.org/Board\\_of\\_County\\_Commissioners](http://www.lanecounty.org/Board_of_County_Commissioners)) know that you support this project. And please encourage others to show their support by becoming a member and donating generously. Dr. Wade's bequest has, I earnestly believe, finally caused the stars to align for a bright future for the Lane County Historical Museum.

## NOW ON DISPLAY!

Local artist Henry Arthur Clough (1891–1977) sculpted three delightful fireplace panels for his friend Ernest W. Ellis in return for Ellis' photographic services at the Kennell-Ellis Studio Building in Eugene.

These panels decorated the fireplace in the Ellis home until they were donated to the museum in 1983. Now exhibited for the first time to the general public on the wall above the Law Library in the county Public Service Building, the panels are visible from all three levels of the public portion of the building.

This delightful Art Deco piece depicts a deer and two fawns in a woodland scene. Installed quite recently, the panels received professional attention from a conservator before being remounted. Detailed interpretive panels are planned in the coming months.





## Fresh Perspectives on Native American History

Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

For the next year, our museum will host a wonderful new exhibit that discusses local Native American culture and art, *Their Hearts Are in This Land*. It explores the recent history of local tribes, using a combination of traditional artifacts, contemporary art, and video. It shows that western Oregon's Native peoples have a living, vibrant culture, and their history did not end when European settlers arrived.

This exhibit is a special project conceived and created by students from the University of Oregon's Museum Studies

Department. The idea came from Deana Dartt, PhD, an expert in Native American contemporary art, who visited our museum this past winter with her UO class. Dr. Dartt is interested in Native American representation in museum exhibits and collections, and she wondered why there were no exhibits currently on display about Native American culture.

Museum staff explained that we had only a few photos, limited archival resources, and one lone basket left in our collection, and that this was not enough to support a full exhibit. Dr. Dartt suggested that with her expertise, she could guide her spring-

term exhibit design class through the process of researching, writing, designing, and installing an exhibit related to Native American history that could be presented in a previously under-used exhibit space.

The class created a visually interesting and thought-provoking exhibit that has as its main goal helping museum visitors question misconceptions many people have about Native American culture. Each exhibit panel takes as its topic a specific idea or theme that is often used to misrepresent Native Americans. The panel explains how that idea came to be so widely held, and why it is not correct.





For example, one panel discusses how the idea that Native Americans are a “dying race” came to be so widely held, why it continues to be such a major part of our view of Native American history, and why it is so damaging to Native people today. It takes as its example Eliza Young (1820–1922), a Kalapuya woman who lived her entire life in the Willamette Valley. She attracted the attention of local journalists when she lived to be over 100 years of age. She was touted as the “Last of the Kalapuya” in several stories about her life, and she was presented as representing the final years of Native American culture. In fact, she was deeply involved in preserving Native American culture, and was known as an important

community leader for the Kalapuya. She was also a very talented basket maker who preserved the intangible cultural treasure of Kalapuya weaving. About 4,000 Kalapuya descendants still live in Oregon today.

The students learned about all aspects of exhibit planning and execution, and did a credible job pulling this project together in a single academic term. It was a collaboration in which all involved learned something new. Over 180 visitors attended our opening reception, which featured comments from Many Nations Longhouse Steward Gordon Bettles and ethnohistorian David Lewis, and a musical performance by members of the Grand Ronde tribe.

*Their Hearts Are in This Land: Native*

*Resilience in Western Oregon* will be on view at the Lane County Historical Museum through June 1, 2018. Stay tuned for upcoming exhibit related programming!

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#### PHOTOS

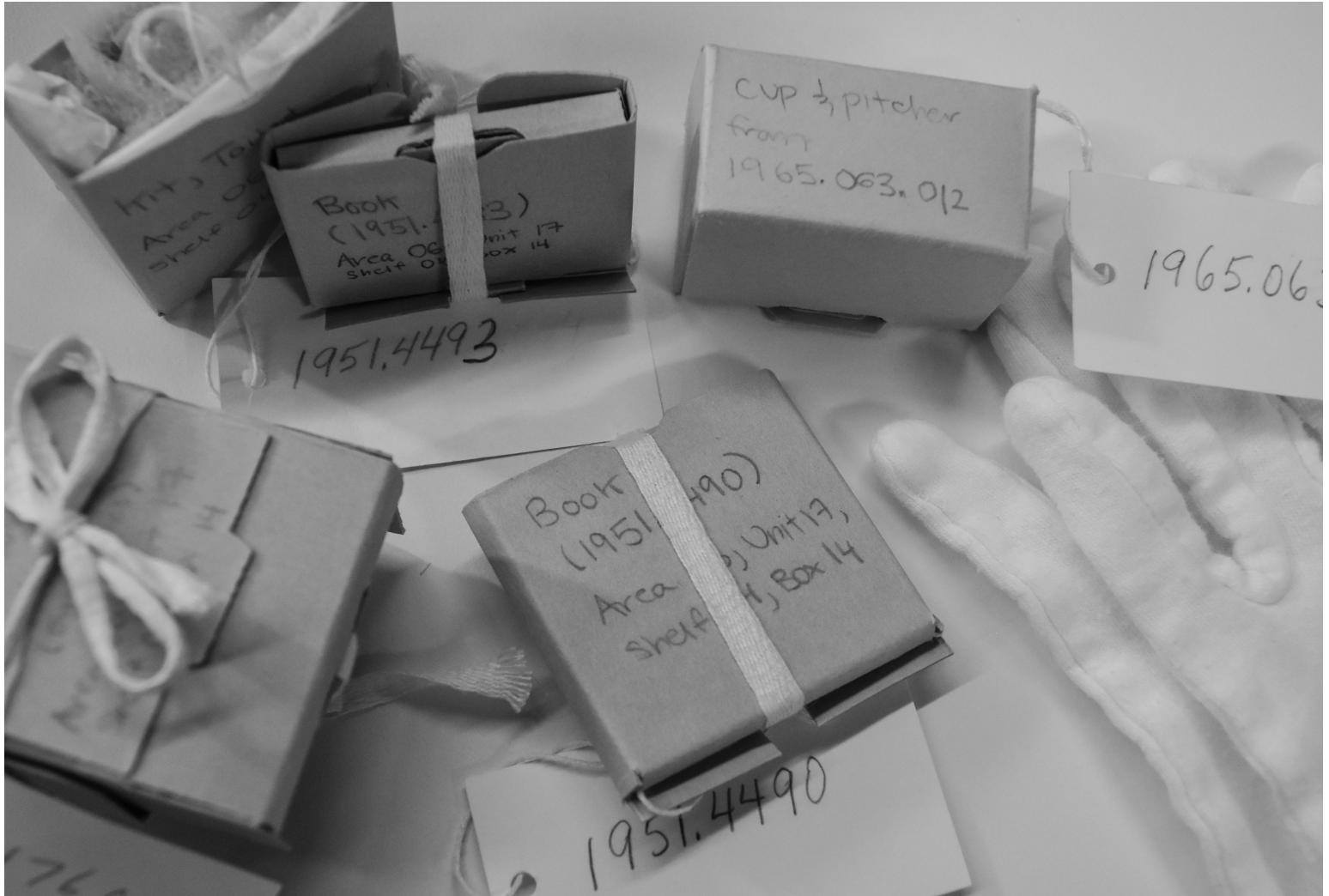
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**GN8076** Left: Native American mother and child at James Seavey's hop yard, on the McKenzie River north of Springfield, 4 miles east of present-day I-5 freeway bridges c. 1915.

**GN8079** Top: Eliza Young c. 1910. She was one of the last members of the Kalapuya Tribe of the southern Willamette Valley.

## My Collections Field Trip

*"... much of the conservation profession is highly technical ... Less specialized processes, however, can be learned and adapted by professionals in related fields, especially those in collections care and museum maintenance."*



Tara Puyat, Artifacts Manager

Sending me to a conference on conservation is like letting a child run loose in a candy store. There was so much to see and so much to learn that it was almost overwhelming. Fortunately, AIC (American Institute for Conservation of Historic and Artistic Works) did an excellent job organizing the event, and I came away with a wonderful experience and an abundance of new knowledge.

Although closely linked with the arts, much of the conservation profession is highly technical, and specialized knowledge is needed to carry out any treatments. I attended sessions full of new research into the chemistry of materials and brand new technical innovations. Less specialized

processes, however, can be learned and adapted by professionals in related fields, especially those in collections care and museum maintenance. A session on collections care, for example, presented research on methods of managing museum pests through the use of anoxic (oxygen-starved) environments.

AIC has many programs for both conservators and non-conservators. I attended a "Collection Care Idea Fair" presented by the Collection Care Network, whose goal is to make knowledge accessible to those who may need it. The network supports a website called STASH (Storage Techniques for Art, Science and History), where anyone can share innovative packing and storage techniques they have developed or are using in their own institutions. One of

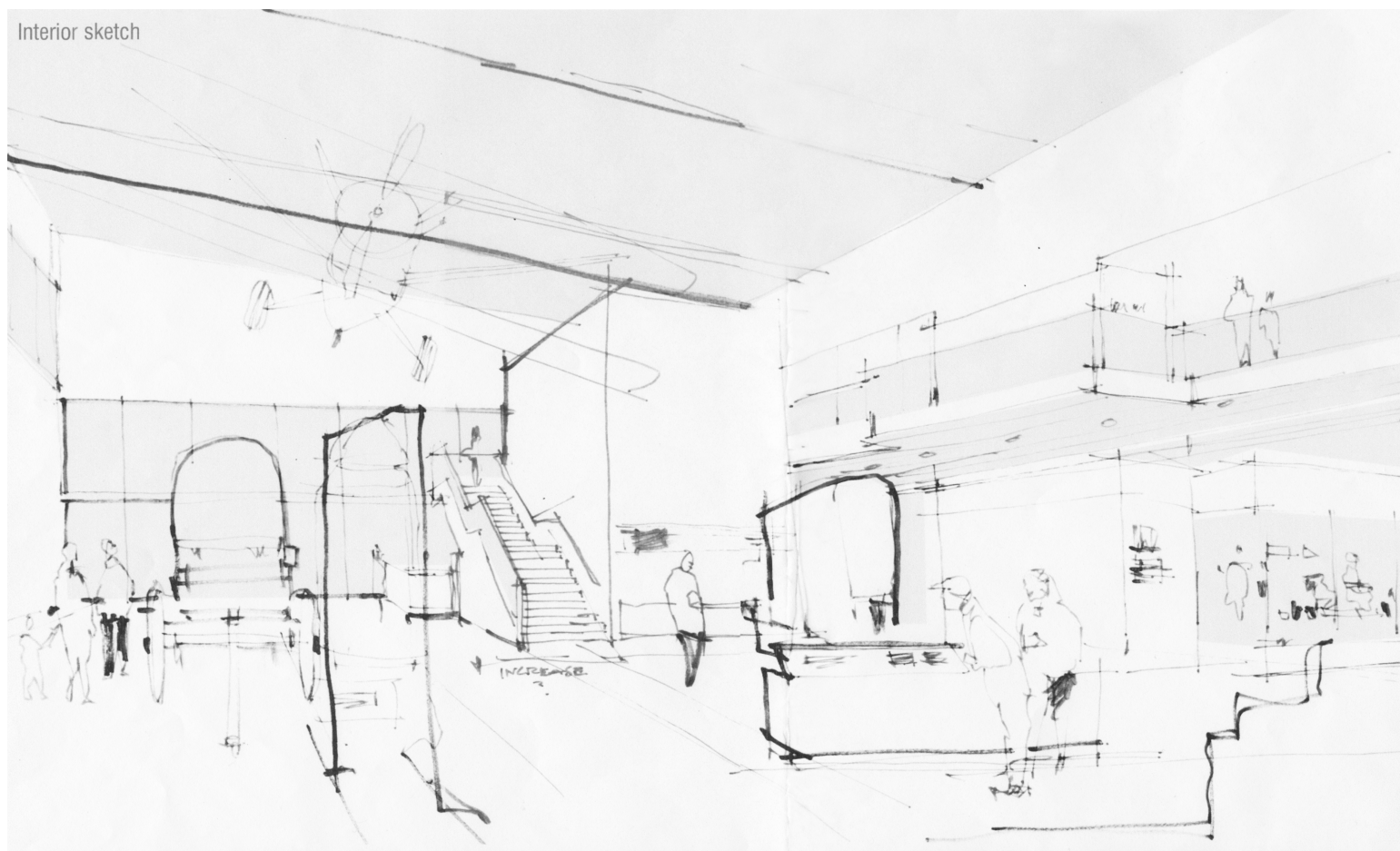
the highlights of my conference experience was "STASH FLASH IV," a pre-conference session at which presenters shared their innovations in a blitz format of five minutes each.

I would recommend AIC conferences to anyone who has an interest in the conservation and preservation of our heritage. In addition, the AIC website is an amazing place to visit and a useful resource.

Many thanks to Oregon Heritage and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department for the Elisabeth Walton Potter Heritage Preservation Scholarship, which provided me the means to attend this conference. I hope that what I have learned will prove useful as I share it with colleagues and the greater community.



Interior sketch



## Lane County Historical Museum: A Whole New Era

The Lane County Historical Museum is exploring the possibilities, costs, and benefits of a new, larger museum building. Our current museum and associated programming are limited by the ongoing problems with our small, aging building at the fairgrounds. In design and function, it is a fairgrounds exposition hall, not a museum. Lack of climate control, inadequate lighting, overflowing storage areas, bathrooms and mezzanine gallery that are difficult to access to those with disabilities, and an unwieldy gallery space make the museum a challenging environment for visitors and staff alike. The museum's capacity and potential have far outstripped our outmoded, undersized, ill-equipped building. We must act soon to ensure that a unique record of Oregon's heritage is preserved and accessible for generations to come.

The new museum will engage a much larger percentage of Lane County residents in discovering our shared history. Museum-quality lighting, casework, and visitor services; creatively planned and designed exhibits; and meeting and event spaces for a wide variety of innovative programs will diversify the museum's local, regional, and tourist audiences.

We expect that a larger museum with creatively planned and designed exhibits will become a must-see attraction for residents and visitors alike. A new museum with outstanding collection and exhibit space will be a great new attraction for the community. Over time, annual attendance will catch up with Lane County's leading visitor attractions. Watch for more information in the months ahead!

### Why do we need a new space?

#### A Collections Center

- Museum can begin collecting again!
- Up-to-date storage conditions
- Easy access
- Better care for our artifacts

#### Exhibit Space

- Room for many more exhibits
- Room to display more of our artifacts
- Room for more guests at any time
- Easier to conduct tours

#### Modern Building

- More appealing
- Better work space for staff and partners
- Larger open areas for events
- Can serve a broad range of ages
- Enhanced tourist destination



# Along the Long Tom River



David Turner, Historian

The Long Tom River, which flows on the western side of Eugene, is the site of many important historical moments that define this region. A wide-ranging selection of these tales are told in the new book, *Along the Long Tom River*, by David Turner.

The 182-page book with full-color illustrations throughout, features writings by local historians and naturalists, plus interviews with area residents, all of whom describe the area's rich history.

During the 1850s, the river's banks were traversed by many European American settlers, who traveled along the historic Applegate Trail through Monroe, some then heading to Eugene, others going south toward California. At that time, the settlers could homestead the land, which was carefully surveyed and

mapped by the General Land Office (GLO) to show the new land claims of up to 640 acres. Many families still living in the area, like the Richardsons and McFaddens who are featured in the book, are living on these original land claims from the 1840s and 1850s.

One of the most visually interesting sections in the book was prepared by naturalist Ed Alverson, who compares the beautifully illustrated GLO maps, and their handwritten field notes, to Google Earth photographs of the same area to show that the land has sometimes changed dramatically but at other times changed very little.

Stories told in the book include an extensive history of early settlers in the Long Tom Valley by historian Douglas Card, the building of the Horton Auto Railway in the 1920s to carry lumber from near the river's headwaters to a small mill near Cheshire, and

the building of Fern Ridge Dam in the early 1940s to try to help control flooding.

The book is richly illustrated with historic maps, historic photographs, and contemporary photographs, featuring work by Art Johnson, Susie Morrill, Herman Krieger, and David Turner.

This is the second book on local history written by David Turner, currently on the faculty at the University of Oregon. His first book, *Eugene*, was published in 2012 and featured over 180 historic photographs of the area.

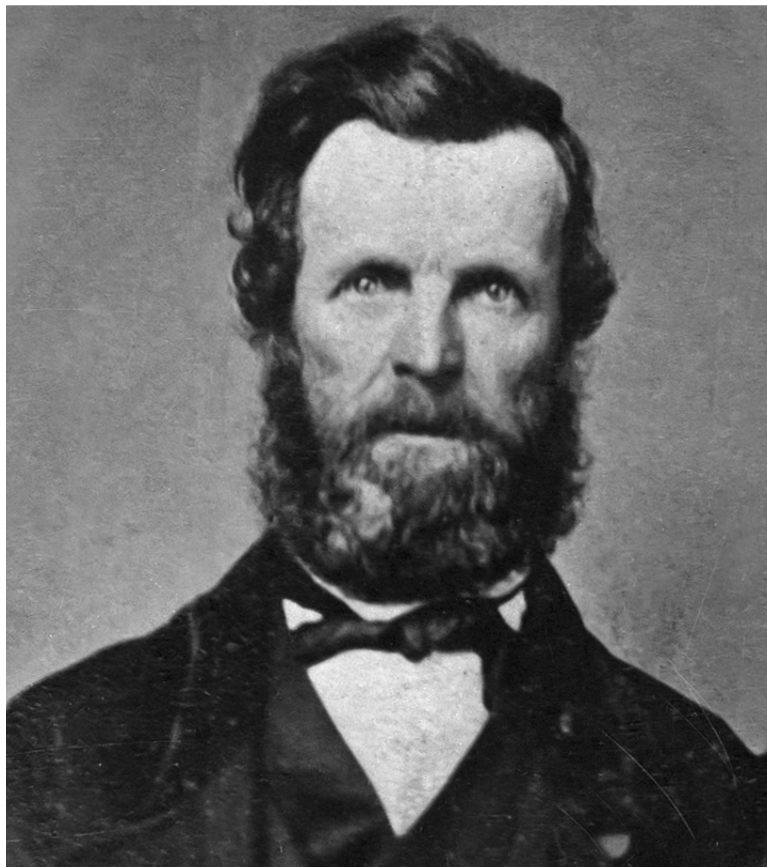
The books are available at the Lane County Historical Museum bookstore.

## PHOTOS

Looking north along the Long Tom river as photographed from Franklin Road bridge east of Franklin Oregon.



# Journey from Indiana to Oregon: The Journal of George Belshaw



Jennifer Yeh, Volunteer Coordinator

George Belshaw Jr.'s family came to the United States from England in 1833 and 20 years later decided to head west. According to George Belshaw Jr.'s journal his family left their home in Lake County, Indiana, along with some family friends on March 23, 1853 setting out for the Oregon Territory. At the end of the long journey, George Jr. settled in what is now Lane County.

The first wagon train had arrived in Oregon in 1841 with about 80 people, and the Oregon Trail continued to lure settlers westward until 1869 when the transcontinental railroad was completed. By the time the Belshaw family set out, there were places to buy supplies on the Oregon Trail and ferries in some locations; however, it was not a safe journey, and people and animals frequently did not survive the trip.

The wagon train that started in Indiana consisted of 10 wagons and 25 people, mainly from the Belshaw family, and it doubled in

size as it went across the plains. George Jr, 37 years old in 1853, was elected its captain.

In his journal, George not only recounted what happened on the trip but also made notes that might have been helpful to future travelers about poisonous water, trail conditions, and the availability of grass and firewood.

Not all of the trip was difficult, and simple things could be enjoyed. George wrote on July 4, "we went 3 miles and dug in the earth about 12 inches and found chunks of Ice we carried it along till noon and made some lemonade for dinner it relished first rate."

George decided to float down the Columbia River rather than take the wagons and family over the Cascades Mountains. At the falls they unloaded and waited for the cattle. They took the wagons, people, and cattle past the falls to the next boat ramp. "I engaged a Steamer," George wrote on September 23, "to take my Wagon and family down to big sandy that is over the Cascades Mountains 15 miles from Portland and I am going down the pack trail with the stock."

George Belshaw Jr. took his land claim on April 1, 1854, and his brother Charles took his on September 7, 1854. Charles is said to have settled in eastern Oregon and became a music teacher. George Jr. was a successful grain farmer and won gold medals for produce in 1876 at the Philadelphia Centennial Exposition and the Paris Exhibition. He was also president of the Lane County Agricultural Society when it held the first Lane County Fair in 1884.

George and his wife Candace died three months apart in 1893 and are buried in the Masonic Cemetery in Eugene, along with George's parents, George Sr. and Elizabeth Belshaw.

Note: Quotes from the Journal are reproduced exactly as written.

## PHOTOS

**GN5331** Left: George Belshaw. c. 1875.

**GN5154** Right: Candace McCarthy Belshaw. Date unknown.

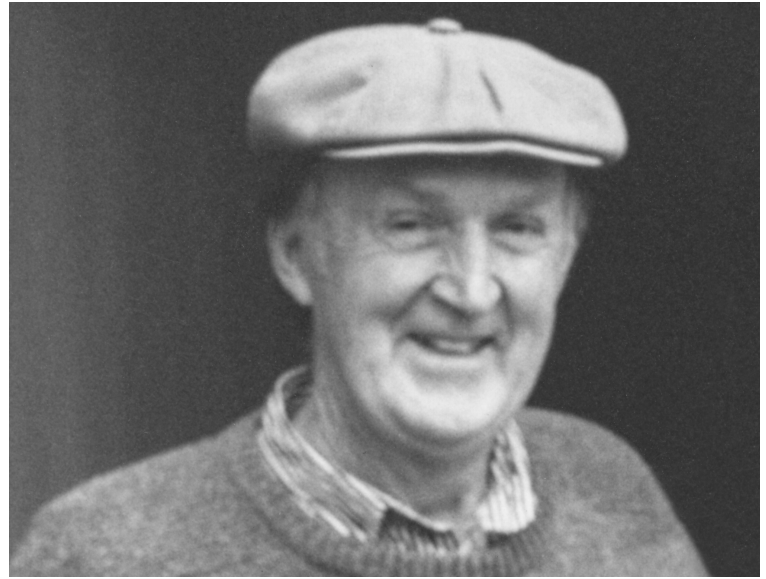




## A Lane County Legacy: Louise Carroll Wade

Please join us in honoring a life well-lived

- Born. Feb 22, 1928 (George Washington's birthday), Toledo, OH. Passed. Feb 17, 2016 Eugene, OR
- B.A. Wellesley College, Ph.D. Univ. of Rochester. Fulbright Fellowship (Australia)
- Professor (Emerita), UO Dept. of History, 1975-1994
- Specialty: Labor, social, and urban history. Taught both undergraduate and graduate students. Focused on student success.
- Major book: *Chicago's Pride: The Stockyards, Packingtown, and Environs in the Nineteenth Century* (1987)
- Active in several local organizations including Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, Mozart Players and Lane County Historical Society.
- "Louise was a quiet person with a questioning and adventuresome mind. She taught us that quiet does not mean timid or meek. She always tried to deal in facts, analysis and knowledge and was never afraid to question those who did not." Register-Guard obituary, March 27, 2016
- Louise left a generous gift to the Lane County Historical Museum through her estate. Her gift has provided the resources needed for our organization to move forward.



## Volunteer Highlight

Cheryl Roffe, Collections Manager

Jerold Williams retired from the Springfield School District in 1980, and soon thereafter, he walked into the Lane County Historical Museum and volunteered his services and expertise. Fortunately for us, he has been here ever since (for over 35 years!), coming once a week on Thursday mornings to assist with research requests and map searches (a specialty) and to inventory our architectural plans and our blacksmith and carpenter tools collections.

A master map researcher and local historian, Jerold is the descendant of Lane County pioneers Thomas and Hanna Williams, who came to Oregon via the Lost Wagon Train of 1853, settled in the Dexter area, and set up a sawmill. Jerold grew up in Dexter and is an excellent woodworker, but he did not follow the family tradition of working in the lumber industry.

Jerold earned a BA and an M.A. in history at the University of Oregon, joined the ROTC, and managed an Air Force supply depot in England during the early years of the Cold War. He met his future wife in England and returned there to marry her after completing his term of duty.

After returning to the States with his wife, Jerold was hired as the librarian for the Glendale, Oregon, school district, where he managed all three school libraries—elementary, middle school and high school. During this period, he spent three summers in Seattle and earned an M.A. in library science at the University of Washington. The family later moved to Eugene, where Jerold was a district supervisor with the Springfield School District, managing its school libraries, audiovisual division, and mail service.

Jerold's hobbies are carpentry (he has taught classes at the Campbell Senior Center), hiking, and rock climbing. He has written three books about hiking trails in Lane County. He also rides his bicycle almost everywhere. We are so fortunate to have this very knowledgeable and dedicated historian on our volunteer archival staff.

Note: At this time, Jerold is on leave due to health issues, but he is still on our consultant list.



## Would you like to make a donation?



### Yes! I want to support Lane County Historical Society

- ☐ I'd like to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I'd like to make a donation for new exhibit furniture \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I'd like to make a donation for the building fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ I'd like to make a donation for the endowment fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional ways to support us:

- ☐ Please contact me about planned giving
- ☐ Contact me about setting up an automatic monthly direct donation
- ☐ My company offers a matching gift program
- ☐ Send me information on including a legacy gift in my estate plan
- .....

- ☐ Check Enclosed. Please make checks payable to

### Lane County Historical Society

- ☐ Credit Card: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous
- ☐ Name as it should appear for recognition
- \_\_\_\_\_

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](http://lchm.org). Questions? Please call 541.682.4242 or email [volunteers@lchm.org](mailto:volunteers@lchm.org)

## How Can I Support Lane County Historical Museum?



Your generous support of the Lane County Historical Museum enables us to offer the many educational programs and events described in this newsletter as well as preserve Lane County's heritage for future generations. You can ensure that our work continues by making a gift to the Lane County Historical Museum in a variety of ways, including the following:

- As part of your will. Consult with your attorney about how best to do so.
- Your living trust. If you are using a living trust to distribute your assets, you can also include a charitable gift to the Lane County Historical Museum.
- Your life insurance proceeds. You can name the Lane County Historical Museum to receive all or a portion of your life insurance policy, perhaps one that is no longer needed for its original purpose. Income and estate tax benefits can result from such a gift.
- Your retirement plan. It's easy to include the Lane County Historical Museum as a beneficiary of your retirement plan. This is a tax-wise way to make a charitable gift, as amounts remaining in retirement plans at death may be subject to both estate and income taxes when left to individuals.

### JOIN US

Support the future of the Lane County Historical Museum by making a gift in your will or trust or by including us as a beneficiary of your retirement account, insurance policy, or investment account. If you have already included the Lane County Historical Museum in your estate plans, please let us know. Thank you.

Lane County Historical Museum  
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[www.lchm.org](http://www.lchm.org)

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SUMMER 2017 No. 224

*The Artifact is produced quarterly and distributed to members of the Lane County Historical Museum*

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