

The Artifact

Lane County
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY

WINTER 2016

Issue No. 218



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

Come To The Museum

Tuesday – Saturday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.
740 West 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR

Admission

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

Phone

Office: (541) 682-4242

Web

www.lchm.org

You can also find us on Facebook!

Membership

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*

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The Museum Store

Support us with a purchase from our store that features Oregon Trail and local history gifts: books, cards, photos, old fashioned toys, jewelry, and much more!

The Artifact is produced by:

- Editor & Design:
Robert Cheyne Chesnut
rc.chesnut@gmail.com
- LCHM staff members
- Guest contributors

EVENTS CALENDAR

February 12-14: Radio Redux: *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz*
Hult Center, Soreng Theater
Friday, February 12 at 7:30 PM
Saturday, February 13 at 2:00 PM
Sunday, February 14 at 2:00 PM

February 13: Annual Meeting:

*The LCHS bylaws state that our annual meeting will be held near to the state's birthday of February 14. Readers will recognize this date as also celebrated as Valentine's Day. And that it also coincides with the annual Asian Festival and Frontier Heritage Fair, both held at the Fairgrounds that weekend. This year's Society annual meeting will be held on Saturday, February 13 starting at 2:00 PM at the LCHM. Dr. James Mohr, UO Dept. of History, will be the featured speaker, reflecting on his latest book *Licensed to Practice: The Supreme Court Defines the American Medical Profession* (2013). The business part of the meeting will follow with the presentation of this year's Heritage Outreach Grant awards, followed by the election of 2016-17 members of the Board of Directors. Light refreshments will be served following the meeting.*

TBA: Stay Tuned! Late February, OPB will broadcast an *Oregon Experience* episode on Dr. Thomas Condon featuring Bob Hart as Dr. Condon

March 4: First Friday ArtWalk featuring Bob Hart and Mark Beaudert hosting a stop about Russian Butter Week

March 5: Special Speaker Event: *The Life of Dr. Esther Pohl Lovejoy*
By Dr. Kimberley Jensen
2:00 PM at the Lane County Historical Museum

April 5–10: *Pioneer Quilters Quilt Show*
Lane County Historical Museum
10:00 AM until 4:00 PM

April 8: Radio Redux: *It Happened One Night*
Hult Center, Soreng Theater
Friday, April 8 at 7:30 PM
Sunday, April 10 at 2:00 PM

April 15: Opening reception for *Castles in the Air: Literary Lessons and Daily Life in the World of Little Women*
6:00–8:00 PM at The Lane County Historical Museum

Front Cover: Currier & Ives, Central Park, Winter: The skating pond.
Lithograph, 1862, Library of Congress. # 90715719

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



By the time this column is read the winter solstice will have passed and daylight will be lengthening again. But the end of our calendar year and the beginning of one anew I have normally found a useful time for reflection. I suspect that I am not alone and perhaps this is why New Year's is a time of resolutions. So what should Lane County Historical Society be thankful for during the past year and to what should we look forward in 2016?

2015 was a year of transition. The museum staff saw more than the usual turnover, almost simultaneously losing our volunteer coordinator and exhibits curator. Fortunately we were able to enlist two highly competent replacements in Jennifer Yeh and Faith Kreskey. Beginning in July, Registrar Heather Kliever began doing two jobs as she slowly assumes duties as the new museum educator (effective at the end of March). Another change was the shift of Senior Digital Archivist and Newsletter Editor Robert Chesnut to a full time position with the added responsibility of webmaster on the new website. In the good deed category, the two Applegate Trail interpretive signs that ODOT removed from US 99N's Washburne Park almost two years ago and we had stored ever since, finally found a happy home

in Monroe with the South Benton Communities Museum. And from a collections and employee comfort perspective, the installation of a ductless heat pump in the archives and library room has been a home run. But does that then mean that we should be thankful for the July heat wave that helped cook our computer server?

2016 will be a year of challenge. LCHS is committed to improving our current facility for both the visitor, volunteers, and staff. The board of directors also recognizes that in order to retain good staff and decrease employee turnover, it is important to try and provide an attractive wage scale. So one of the most significant near-term challenges will be apportioning funds to both facility improvements and boosting staff wages.

MOONSHINERS & BOOTLEGGERS



Recently, while cataloging photographs collected by museum donor Hattie Mae Nixon, volunteer Joanne Snyder discovered a rare photograph of a once active, illegal Eugene alcohol distillery operation (GN11114). The stills were located in a shed at 1291 West 2nd Avenue, and were discovered when a fire broke out at that site at 1:50 a.m., Feb. 13th, 1934. The two stills were described as having a 75 gallon and a 35 gallon capacity. Lane County Sheriff Charles “Tom” Swarts is posed next to the equipment.

Although the 21st Amendment repealed Prohibition on Dec. 5th, 1933, and Oregon ratified that amendment, the state almost immediately established the Oregon Liquor Control Commission to regulate the

manufacture and sale of alcoholic beverages, so the distillery operation was still illegal. It should be added that Oregon had its own Alcohol Prohibition Amendment which predated the federal prohibition amendment by 5 years (Oregon’s Measure 17 was passed by the voters on Nov. 13th, 1914 and the ratification of the 18th Amendment was certified on Jan. 16th, 1919). The state measure survived two attempts to repeal it, in 1925 and 1931, because the state legislature refused to pass the bills on to the voters. The state amendment was finally repealed in the summer of 1933, just prior to the passage of the 21st Amendment.

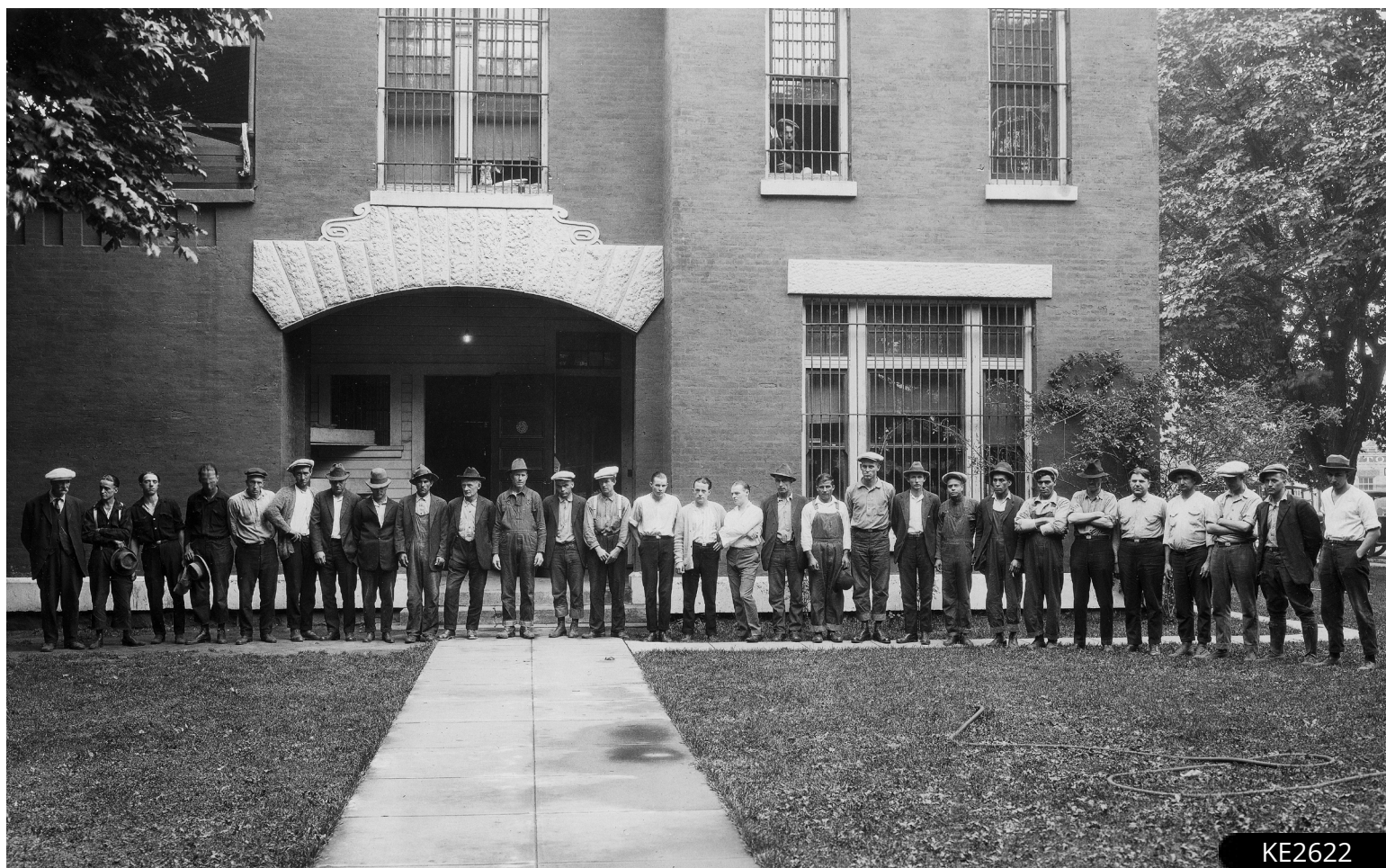
The Lane County Historical Museum has only a few other photographic images on this topic. GN8178 shows a happy, but unidentified (understandably) moonshiner

and his whiskey stills located somewhere in the woods along Lost Creek near Vida, ca. 1925. And KE2621 and KE2622 were taken for the Lane County Sheriff’s Dept. property officer, to document the results of a successful bootlegging raid. Distillery equipment and bottles are piled up outside the 1898 Lane County Courthouse in one image, and convicted bootleggers (lots of them) are lined up in front of the old Lane County Jail on the northwest corner of 8th Avenue and Oak Street. Unfortunately, the photographs are not dated. But the images do provide a glimpse into past history which was not often recorded photographically.

By Cheryl Roffe, Collections Manager



GN8178



KE2622



KE2621

AN UNUSUAL PARTNERSHIP



Two doctors not previously mentioned in the discussion of the history of medicine in Lane County are actually quite well represented in the LCHM collection. Dr. Colbert Cannon was born in 1846 and lived most of his early years in Wisconsin. In 1871 he married and had one son, Walter Bradford Cannon.

After the death of his wife around 1890, Colbert moved to Chicago where he received a degree in homeopathic medicine from National Medical University, a short lived educational center for alternative therapies. In the mid-19th century, nearly one third of all doctors in the United States practiced homeopathy and it was a very popular option for those who were interested in less invasive treatments than those that were used by the medical doctors of the day.

He moved to Oregon around 1900, settling in Eugene around 1905. In 1907 he received a medical license and opened a practice. Along with compounding herbal and homeopathic remedies, Colbert also offered electrical and vibration treatments, which were gaining a great deal of popularity during this time. According to his business cards, he specialized in treating women and children.

Born in Sweden in 1872, Alma Anderson studied English in primary school. When her family moved to the United States in 1884, she was able to attend high school in Illinois

with few problems. She trained as a nurse at a small medical college and graduated in 1887. Alma moved to Seattle where she managed a forty three bed private hospital for several years. She purchased the hospital around 1890 and was its manager until 1902.

After selling the hospital in Seattle, Alma decided to complete her medical training at the University of Illinois. She received her M.D. in 1906, which was no small feat for a woman at the turn of the 20th century. It is interesting to note that though women were not always accepted in the medical community, there were more women in medical school between 1890 and 1920 than there were between 1930 and 1960. Alma managed the Chicago Emergency Hospital for a year as part of a local initiative to get more women working in medical institutions that provided services for the destitute. It is likely that her ability to speak Swedish and German helped her work with the large immigrant community the hospital served.

In 1907 she decided to leave her position as hospital manager. She received medical licenses to practice in California and Oregon and in search of new opportunities, she moved to Eugene. She became a partner in Dr. Cannon's medical practice, with Alma treating patients using up to date scientific medicine and Colbert practicing homeopathy. They married in 1911, and the couple moved into a small house at 855 Willamette Street.

They maintained a suite of offices for their medical practice in the White Temple Building, formerly located at the northwest corner of Broadway and Oak.

Colbert passed away in 1915. After his death, Alma continued to practice medicine. She remarried a man by the name of E. Miller during the 1930s, and worked under the name Dr. Anderson Cannon-Miller until her retirement in 1946. She lived in Eugene until her passing in 1961.

A number of Alma's personal effects were left to the museum, including her 1901 Edison gramophone and a black beaded evening dress dating to the 1910s. For the last ten years, her portrait in its elaborate gold frame was a part of the museum's Victorian parlor display. A large portion of Colbert's tools were left to the museum, including the vials of substances he used to make remedies in their original cases, and packets of the pills he made by hand along with his written instructions for treatments.

By Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

PHOTOS:

Left: A portrait of Dr. Alma Anderson Cannon-Miller taken in the 1890s.

Right: Leather traveling cases containing ingredients used by Dr. Colbert Cannon to make homeopathic remedies.

ORAL HISTORY: DON MEETS DOLORES



The Don Hunter project extends into oral history as intern Barry Sommer, a senior in history at Northwest Christian University, is transcribing a set of 17 audio files from the Oregon Historical Society. The interviews with Don Hunter were collected in the early 1990s, by Society member Jim Strassmeier. This interview took place August 2, 1993 in Don's residence. OHS granted permission to use the audio files in recognition of our extensive 35mm Don Hunter collection. Barry cites the following story as a favorite as it illuminates the romance between Don and his first wife, the purchase of land for their first home, and the generous nature of Cal Young. This excerpt is from Interview #5.

All Oral History transcripts remain true to audio dialog; however, the following excerpt was edited for clarity.

DH: ...And so Jensen [a maintenance worker at the Miner building] began to kid me about this daughter [daughter of Tony Laws] that was going to come in, and said, "she's gonna getcha." And, so she came and I met her and I did like her. She's a nice person. Her name was Dolores.

JS: And last name?

DH: Dolores Laws, her last name was Laws. So, I got acquainted with her and asked her out to go to a concert [at McArthur Court] or something a few times and we began to like each other and in the fall school started. She was going to start university.

I was in my sophomore year so I knew the way around there. I showed her the ropes in getting started at university. I was taking the survey of core creative arts that year and she was taking it her first year here, but you might say our budding romance had its ups and downs - she was on one elevator and I was on the other [both Don and Delores operated elevators at the Miner Building]. But as far as our relationship was, it was just a very nice relationship. We went together for years before we could afford to get married. And on the salary I was getting from the university we got married.

JS: That made it possible, getting a regular salary, the ninety dollars a month?

DH: And not only that but, we were planning to get married, where to live. We didn't want

to rent, we wanted to have our own place. We figured that if we were careful and conserved our resources we could. She was working too. We could get a loan on the new FHA [Federal Housing Authority] low interest loans that FDR [Franklin Delano Roosevelt] put through. Had it not been for that we never could have afforded to buy a place. So we started before we were married looking for lots. Found a lot over in College Hill. Was one of the many lots that the city had taken over because of non-payment of taxes. There were a lot of them, and I think this lot was available for four hundred dollars, in that neighborhood.

We saw view lots on College Hill. We didn't want a lot down on the flats, we were getting pretty serious about that. We went for a walk, a hike out South Hills here, out Spring Boulevard where it turns into a trail



and logging road way back on out there to where there was a big ponderosa pine tree, we had lunch there. One day we'd been out there and we came back, cut back across the hillside and came right over this lot here and the view here, all this vacant property. There was only one house, this side of 27th, there was right, a block in from the corner.

So the next day I had a chance I went down to the courthouse during lunch hour and looked up the ownership of the lots along here. Found out that Herman Careley, professor at the university, owned two of them. Frank Gordinier, a well driller, lived down on Columbia here owned two lots. Mozelle Hare in the extension division owned one lot on the other side of the street, and Cal Young owned one lot here and one lot up across the street.

We went from one owner to the other, trying to find out how much they'd sell it for. And Gordinier (I think we went to him) he wanted \$750 dollars apiece for his lots and Mozelle Hare wouldn't sell, Herman Careley

wouldn't sell, they each wanted to build on them which they never did. I went to Cal Young finally. I remember Dolores and I going out there one weekend afternoon and invited into his living room, sat there talking and his wife was in a rocking chair sewing or something and we were talking about the lots and why we wanted to buy a lot, and a little of background and the like, you know, and he finally said, "I'll sell you either one of the lots for just what I paid for it," and I think it was 250. It might have been less from that, might have been 150.

JS: My gosh.

DH: ...it was something 50, anyway, more than 250. And they were worth more than that then by a lot. But he took an interest in us, and we chose a lower lot because the upper one, uh, well it was not as steep a slope as this, be a possibility of planting trees and the like, neighbors planting trees that you couldn't see the view. So we took this lot.

JS: Yeah, what luck...

DH: Before we were married, we had the basement built.

The house was built by Don's father with a loan from the FHA. Don and Dolores dipped shingles in paint before they were applied to the walls and worked on other aspects of the house to save money. Ultimately the house, built with the best materials, was a wedding gift from Don's father. Don, a young 101 years old, still lives in his home.

Transcription by Barry Sommers,
Oral History Intern

PHOTOS:

Left Page - Don and Dolores checking the powerful 6L6 output vacuum tubes on a Raydolek device. Above - First Kodachrome picture of Don and Dolores standing near the basalt outcrop on McKenzie View Drive near Coburg Road, 1938.

VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Emily Beckstrand

Emily Beckstrand is a recent graduate from Southern Oregon University, where she majored in Art History. She grew up in Eugene, and remembers the museum fondly from childhood visits. She hopes her time here will help her to keep up her research skills, and she is very interested in gaining work experience. Emily helped to identify a number of pieces of antique medical equipment in the recent exhibit *No Harm Intended*, including an early 20th century blood pressure gauge that even the donors, PeaceHealth Laboratories, didn't quite know how to use. She stayed late to help with exhibit installation and is always ready to help on any projects that come up.

Jennifer Rowan Henry began volunteering last month, and we are very happy to



Jennifer Rowan Henry

have her on board. She retired two years ago after over twenty years working for the University of Oregon in Special Collections at Knight Library and in digital resources for the Architecture and Allied Arts Library. She worked cataloging and digitizing photo collections and her experience in information management will be a wonderful resource for the museum. Jennifer is very interested in the arts, and along with extensive education in information and library sciences, she also received an advanced degree in the history of Chinese art, focusing on Buddhist sculpture. Since her retirement, she has enjoyed travelling around the world and volunteering here in Eugene.

By Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

THE DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE WANTS YOUR IDEAS

One of the active LCHS committees this past year has been the development committee. They are full of ideas, but wish to cast a wider net and are looking for suggestions. Three priorities have been established to evaluate suggestions:

1.) Does the suggestion extend the Society's audience reach?

2.) Does the suggestion increase Museum attendance?

3.) Does the suggestion increase revenue for museum operations and Society outreach?

Please watch our website, Facebook page, and emails for more information on how to submit your ideas!



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QUILTS OF THE OREGON TRAIL

by Mary Bywater Cross

Historical information about quilts of the Oregon Trail, the stories of the makers and the families. Includes 56 color photos of the quilts and vintage family photos. Six of the quilts are in the Lane County Historical Museum collection.

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2nd Ed.

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ON SALE
AT MUSEUM STORE

CASTLES IN THE AIR: LITERARY LESSONS AND DAILY LIFE IN THE WORLD OF LITTLE WOMEN



"Some books are so familiar, reading them is like being home again." - Louisa May Alcott

In conjunction with the Eugene Opera's production of *Little Women*, the museum will be showcasing an exhibit that covers topics related to the much beloved novel. Historical information that takes cues from the book will appear alongside examples of objects from Lane County that were used in the 1860s and 1870s that will be used to recreate the world in which Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy would have lived.

The exhibit will also cover Louisa May Alcott's unusual childhood and life, and discuss how she became one of America's most celebrated authors in a time when many women did not have the freedom to pursue careers.

Castles in the Air will also cover the rise of literature written specifically for children, and it will feature examples of a variety of different types of children's books taken from

the museum's extensive library. *Little Women* is a time capsule representing details about the daily life of girls and women during the American Civil War that had previously not been seen in literature. Though the book was published nearly 150 years ago, it still resonates with readers today. The exhibit will run from April 6, 2016 until May 20, 2016.

By Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

NO HARM INTENDED HAS MANY TAKERS

The museum's latest exhibit opened on Friday, November 13, 2015 to a very enthusiastic crowd. Over fifty members of the public attended, including local medical practitioners, professors from the University of Oregon, and other professionals from the museum community. The opening featured a walk through tour with the curator Faith Kreskey, and even the younger members of the crowd enjoyed learning tidbits about Lane County's medical past. A contingent from Peace Health Laboratories was brought along by Mari Baldwin, who had arranged a loan of a number of historic artifacts from a collection that had been displayed for many years at the lab.

No Harm Intended provides a unique glimpse into medical history from our area. It is also a one of a kind opportunity to see an astonishing portion of the museum collection that has never been displayed before, including a large collection of unopened medical ingredients and patent remedies from the late 19th century. There are some truly unusual artifacts, from a life size paper model that was used to teach basic anatomy that includes pop-up style illustrations, to perhaps the most cringe inducing item on display: the foot treadle powered drill from the 1890s that was used by a local dentist.

So far, the exhibit has been getting warm praise from museum goers. Weekends have been busy with a number of visitors coming

in with their families on rainy afternoons. No Harm has been getting media attention as well. The exhibit was featured in a segment on KVAL News with local anchor Tom Adams interviewing the curator, Faith Kreskey and there will be an upcoming article featured on the University of Oregon website.

This exhibit has a little bit of something for everyone, and along with providing plenty to look at, it teaches the basic history of medicine from 1840 to 1940. It would make an excellent outing for a history minded family, and definitely leaves you with something to talk about. The exhibit will be on view until March 31, 2016.

By Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

Lane County Historical Society & Museum
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