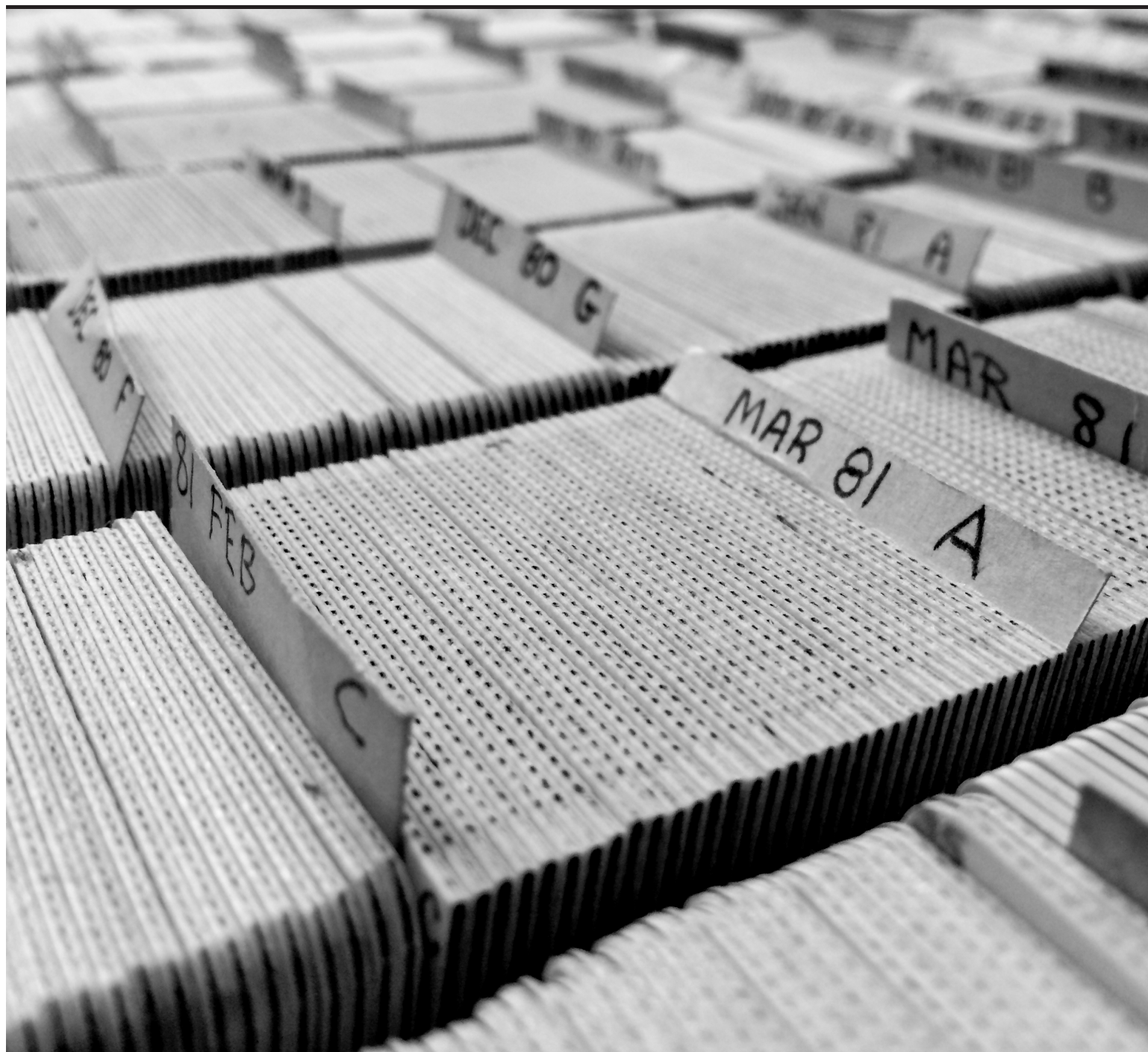


The Artifact

Lane County
HISTORICAL
MUSEUM

SUMMER 2016 No. 220

New Exhibits. Look inside!



Events • Director's Corner • Images From The Phone Museum
Remarks On An Amazing Man • One Hundred Fifty Thousand Images
Rails Through Eugene: A Black History Connection • Museum News

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

See website for free entry dates

Phone

Office: 541.682.4242

Web

www.lchm.org

Check us out 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:
graphics@lchm.com
- LCHM staff members
- Guest contributors

LOOKING FORWARD

JULY

- 19 Exhibit Opening for *Rails through Eugene: A Black History Connection*
- 20-24 Lane County Fair 11 AM - 6 PM
* Free entry with Lane County Fair admission*

AUGUST

- 19 Time Traveling Tots Pre-K-K Program, 10:30 AM

SEPTEMBER

- 9 Public Reception for *Rails through Eugene: A Black History Connection* 6:00 PM. *Free admission for members*
- 16 Time Traveling Tots, Pre-K-K Program, 10:30 AM
- 17 Speaking Event presented by Oregon Black Pioneers 2:00 PM. *Free admission for members*
- 23-25 Radio Redux: *Radio Daze - Comedy Capers*
Soreng Theater - Hult Center
- 26 *The National Parks at 100* by Bob Hart
LCC Successful Aging Institute Class
Waterford Grand, 10:30 AM

OCTOBER

- 3 *Thomas Condon, Oregon's Pioneering Geologist* by Bob Hart
LCC Successful Aging Institute Class
Waterford Grand, 10:30 AM
- 10 *Luther Cressman, Sandals in the Cave Archaeologist*
LCC Successful Aging Institute Class
Waterford Grand, 10:30 AM
- 21 Exhibit Opening *Lost Towns: The Forgotten Stories of Abandoned Settlements in Lane County*
Opens 6:00 PM. Curator's Tour at 7:00 PM
Free admission for museum members
- 21 Time Traveling Tots Pre-K-K Program
10:30 AM
- 24 Oregon Museums Association Annual Meeting Reception
5:00-6:30 PM

Front Cover: Close up image of one of the many boxes holding thousands of 35mm slides for the Don Hunter scanning project (See page 5)

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



The fireworks Olympic Trials, Bach Festival, and Oregon Country Fair are all over. What an early summer full of activities have we already experienced! Gardens are beginning to yield seasonal produce and exhibit change continues at the museum!

The Spring fundraising campaign yielded almost \$6,000 and has provided new exhibit stanchions to help protect our main floor objects not in exhibit cases. The newest exhibits coming are the *Native American Basketry* exhibit and *Rails Through Eugene: A Black History Connection*.

Lane County government is planning to repaint our building and replace and repair our drainpipes and non-functional drains next year. This is great news as we would like the museum building to look better cared for and be far more eye-catching. We have proposed and the county has approved an exhibit for display in the county courthouse hearkening back to Lane County's glory days as the lumber capital of the world.

The museum took the leap to broadband service with a fiber optic connection installed in April and is now enjoying much faster internet speed than was available through our old DSL line. Along with the updated internet speeds, we have also migrated our outdated email service over to Google's Gmail for Business and are taking full advantage of the amazing power that the Google Apps suite offers. On another note, the ductless heat pump installed after last summer's heat wave has already proven its worth during the latest mini-heat wave keeping our research library, electronics server, and library staff cooler this year.

The saddest news of the spring was the passing of local photographic and sound legend Don Hunter at 101. His value to this community was demonstrated by the attendance at his celebration of life on June 10th held at the Central Presbyterian Church. I was privileged to have been invited to make some remarks at the ceremony. Those remarks will be found later in this newsletter.

Memorial gifts in Don's memory have been slowly coming in as word of Don's passing spreads. Don's younger brother, David, who resides near the nation's capital, has led the pack with a quite generous \$1,000 donation! He shared with me at Don's ceremony of life that he retired years ago from government work and had a hand in recovery of a sunken Soviet submarine.

Tara Puyat has joined our the museum staff as our new Artifacts Manager and Registrar. Please help welcome her and say 'hi' when you next visit the museum.

Eugene will be the site of the annual Oregon Museums Association meeting this year, October 23-25, and the museum will host an evening reception as part of the meeting activities (Oct 24th).

The Clerk's Building (1853) will be the site of some necessary structural repair again this year.

The Heritage Outreach Grants program will again offer competitively awarded grant support to individuals and organizations promoting Lane County history. Also look for a brand new program of history awards and recognition.

In the last issue of *The Artifact* we announced that the Society was to be the beneficiary of a major gift from the estate of former UO Professor Louise Wade. Members might wish to put on their thinking caps as to how they think we might best invest in our future. I expect lots of thoughtful institutional discussion following the announcement of the actual size of the gift as the estate is settled.

IMAGES FROM THE TELEPHONE MUSEUM

Hello? Hi There!

Cheryl Roffe:
Collections Manager

FOR YEARS, a tiny museum housing historic telephone equipment including replicas of the original Alexander Graham Bell telephone, photographs and early switchboard equipment, was housed on the first floor of the QWEST building at 10th and Oak.

Known most recently as the QWEST Pioneer Telephone Museum, it opened in 1983 and was staffed by former telephone company employees on a volunteer basis, and was open to the public for several hours on Thursdays. Sadly, the museum closed this year.

But museum staff member Judith Knight has donated nine photographs of early 20th century telephone offices to the Lane County

Historical Museum archives, including three of the Eugene office and six of other mainly Lane County locations: Cottage Grove, Drain (Douglas County), Florence, Junction City, Marcola and Springfield. We are very pleased to receive these images of pre-internet communications centers into our archival collection.





PHOTOS

Left Clockwise:

1. Eugene office at 10th Avenue and Oak Street.
2. Second view of Eugene office at 10th Avenue and Oak Street.
3. Cottage Grove office.
4. Drain office in Douglas County.

Above Clockwise:

5. Florence office.
6. Marcola office
7. Springfield office.
8. Junction City office.

REMARKS ON AN AMAZING MAN



Bob Hart, Executive Director

Bob Hart represented the Society and spoke at Don Hunter's celebration of life held at Central Presbyterian Church on June 10, 2016, just shy of Don's 102nd birthday:

OF THE PREVIOUS speakers, I am the one who knew Don for the shortest time. I became aware of him through the Museum of Natural and Cultural History where he was still doing programs. And later, when he donated his slide collection to the Lane County Historical Society, I came to know Don on a personal level. I was told this morning that I would be batting cleanup and I know that I will touch on some of the previous stories.

Don's childhood story of riding the streetcar to the end of the line without his parent's permission or knowledge seems to me illustrative of the way he approached life. He was curious about literally everything and purposeful about how he pursued his interests.

He was curious about the natural world and how machinery and gadgets worked. He appreciated trees, flowers, and mighty locomotives. He would have appreciated meeting both Ansel Adams and Alexander Graham Bell! And he would have felt like a kid in a candy store in Thomas Edison's laboratory.

Don may be properly remembered as high on life!

And while we are on the subject of sweets, who can forget the prominent large bowl of candy that one walked past on entering Don's home? As I was privileged to be able to spend more time with Don after his gift of his 35 mm slide collection to the LC Historical Society and Museum, I learned that Don and I shared a flavor treat beyond chocolate, that of root beer floats! Now Don was nothing if not exacting in his indulgences - the preferred vanilla ice cream was to be from Prince Pucklers. By the time I was involved, Don had already stockpiled the root beer, Steelhead root beer, of course.

Don was never puffed up. He was proud of his family. He deservedly took some credit in having the first tape recorder in town after WWII. And he was proud of having testified before Congress with one of his multi-projector slide shows.

Don's artistry, whether with his amazing photographic collection or his equally amazing sound collection, was always quite evident. He had a wonderful eye for what was photogenic and ear for what was worth recording (and, of course, Helen was a music teacher!).

My own oft repeated story concerning how good Don's memory was has to do with the 1929 "Ed's Coed" silent film that

he witnessed being filmed from his school room. After school he then talked his way into being allowed to hold a light reflector during the shooting! Don and I sat together at the museum, viewing the film scene by scene. I took notes while he described where we were around the university and town, and which buildings we were seeing - many no longer there. Don's recall was good for better than 95% of my questions about location! His memory was not just good, it was quite exceptional.

My amazement at Don's mastery of technical skills was nowhere more pronounced than when he confided that he was quite frustrated trying to wrap text around embedded photographs on the computer while writing his autobiography! At almost 35 years his junior in age, I confess that I don't even know how to wrap text around photographs....

In closing, Don was born into a world where radio- or wireless as it was then known- was new. There was a Czar in Russia and the sun never set on the Union Jack. He lived to see the advent of the internet and digital camera - and could use both! The record that he leaves behind of his life and times- in photographic imagery and recorded sound- is a testimonial to a life well lived.

He was one very rare human being... and is already sorely missed.



ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND IMAGES

Bob Hart, Executive Director

DON HUNTER was first of all a native Oregonian and Eugenean. A member of “the Greatest Generation,” he was called to service during World War II. But by his passing this year at age 101, he had left his mark upon the community, nation and the world. He was both an avid amateur photographer and sound collector. By agreement, Don’s sound collection was offered to the University of Oregon and the 35mm color slide collection to the Lane County Historical Society.

What distinguishes the Hunter slide collection is first, that Don tediously catalogued all his slides the good old fashioned way – pen and paper; secondly, that Don had

an eye for the photogenic; and thirdly, that the collection is mind-boggling in size. We’ve got an evolving rough estimate at around 150,000 slides; however, we are all sure the final count will be more than that.

Moving the slides from Don’s home to the Museum was a process that started five years ago as the slides arrived in a take-as-we-go fashion; however, the last haul of the remaining slides took at least five carloads over three days!

There are at least 131 partially-filled slide carousels, many of which come packed in vintage suitcases (still in the ready for transportation and presentation), thousands of organized slides in metal slide drawers, many small boxes of glass-mounted slides and plenty of paper boxes loaded down with Kodachromes, along with slide-laden magazines and boxes and

boxes of miscellaneous.... You get the idea. How many slides do you think the collection will eventually consist of?

When everything is scanned, archived, and the dust has settled, future researchers will one be able to view the best of Don’s imagery as it will be searchable and viewable online. All slides will, of course, be archived and will be able to be viewed onsite by appointment. By agreement, all family imagery (birthday’s, weddings, etc is being returned to Don’s descendants. What a family record!

Don’s range of interests was broad and the collection certainly reflects this. From capturing natural disasters, chasing steam locomotives, to saving wilderness areas, Don’s slide collection is a local treasure and the Museum is honored to be able to receive it.



RAILS THROUGH EUGENE A BLACK HISTORY CONNECTION

Faith Kreskey, Exhibits Curator

THIS SUMMER the Lane County Historical Museum is proud to present an exhibit created by the Oregon Black Pioneers, our state's premier resource for African American cultural heritage information.

The coming of railroads to Oregon in the late 1800's provided employment for African American men after the Civil War. Jobs opened up for them first in building the tracks, then aboard the train as porters, brakemen, waiters and cooks, then at train stations and as maintenance workers. Rails Through Eugene tells the stories of these people using photos, artifacts and scholarly research.

On display are pictures and artifacts from the Oregon Electric Railway. In 1908, the first

electric interurban train entered Salem. The trains travelled between Salem and Portland and offered first class service with a parlor car and a sleeping car for the overnight trains to Portland. The line was extended with service to Eugene in 1912 to great public fanfare. This was an important development for the transportation industry in Oregon, one of the first steps towards modern urbanization as we know it.

Artifacts collected by the Oregon Black Pioneers from the golden age of passenger train travel will be displayed along with photos and objects from the extensive LCHM collections relating to train travel in Lane County.

An opening reception will be hosted on September 9, 2016 at 6:00 pm. A speaking event co-sponsored by Oregon Black Pioneers

about African American history will be held at the museum on September 17, 2016 at 2:00 pm.

PHOTOS

Above: GN4373: An Oregon Electric Railway passenger train passes a bluff near Eugene c1914

Right: GN4369: Oregon Electric Railway passenger train in front of 5th Ave Depot in Eugene. c1914

Wait staff and chefs pose in front of a Portland and Western rail car around 1928 (Image courtesy of All Aboard OHS Exhibit)



Museum News

Opportunities With The Outreach Committee

Want to be part of shaping and implementing these programs, then we want you!!



The Outreach Committee is looking for members to help with:

- **Heritage Grant Program:** Now entering its 4th year this program provides funding for educational and historic preservation projects throughout Lane County.
.....
 - **Mobile Museum:** Dedicated to bringing the Society out from behind the Museum's walls and out to the public.
.....
 - **History Here Project:** Now in its second year the History Here Project assists other groups in creating historical markers and interpretative panels in various locations throughout the county.
 - **Excellence in History Awards:** A new program to recognize those individuals and organizations who have been important in the education, preservation and interpretation of Lane county's history.
.....
 - **New Programs:** Programs that we have not yet thought of, or are in the process of developing!.
.....
- Does any of this interest you? Do you think you can make a difference? Then contact Jennifer Yeh, at volunteers@lchm.org or call her at 541.682.4242.

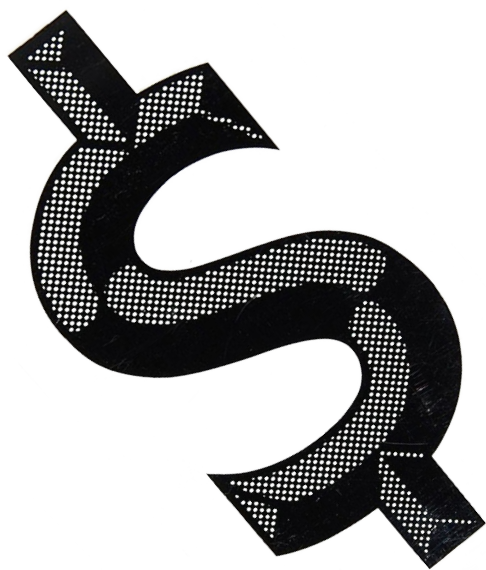
OR GA NIZE

Organizing Chaos: New Employee Tara Puyat

Tara Puyat was selected in April and joined the museum staff beginning in May. She replaces Heather Kliever as Registrar and with an expanded title, Artifacts Manager and Registrar. Heather has moved on to become the Museum Educator and Marketer.

Tara comes to us with a varied background (her first degree is in chemical engineering!), has training in rare book care and preservation, did museum studies at the UO, worked briefly at the Springfield Museum, and most recently had experience with the Pratt Museum in Homer, Alaska.

She has hit the ground running and announced an early goal of becoming the staff Past Perfect collection management software system expert! Tara's upbeat demeanor and professional expertise are a welcome addition to the Museum's excellent staff.



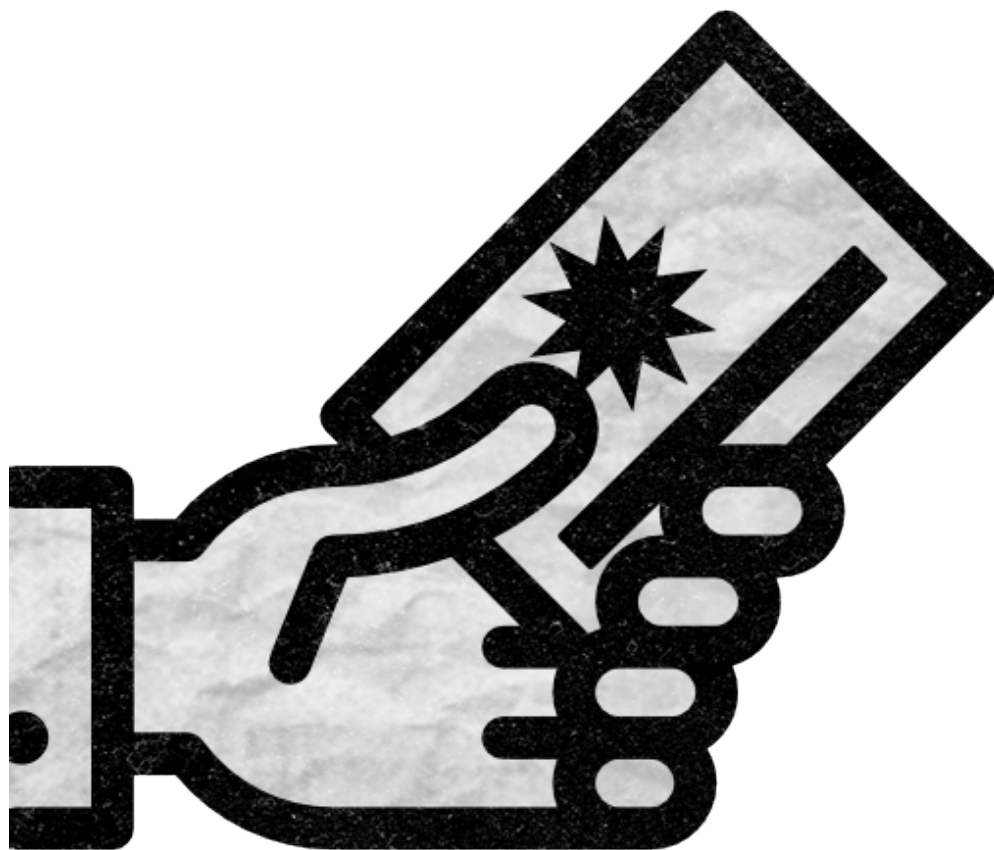
Heritage Outreach Grants 2016-17

Lane County Historical Society is pleased to announce that the Heritage Outreach grant program will continue into a fourth year encouraging both individuals and organizations to apply for financial assistance to projects dealing with Lane County history. Last year's recipients were:

- Ft. Umpqua Muzzleloaders
- Oregon Air and Space Museum
- Oregon Quilt Project
- Lane Chapter Documentation Project
- Springfield Museum
- Friends of Civic Stadium
- Rebekah Lodge 252
- Lisa Ponder and Alice Aikens
- Singing Creek Educational Center.

Last year we awarded a little over \$9,000 in grants and a similar amount will be available this year, funds permitting.

For more information and/or an application, see our website, www.lchm.org, under the About Us menu. Applications must be submitted between July 1st and November 1st. The public announcement of grant selectees and the presentation of checks will be made at the next LCHS annual meeting, tentatively scheduled February 11, 2017.



New Historical Awards Program

The LCHS wishes to recognize outstanding examples of individual, group, institutional, project and educational attainment in the field of Lane County history. The Outreach Committee has created three categories to be eligible for recognition:

a. Individual Achievement Award. Recognition for outstanding contributions to the preservation, interpretation, conservation and/or teaching of Lane County history during the previous year by an individual.

b. Lifetime Achievement Award. An individual whose lifetime contributions to the preservation, interpretation, conservation and/or teaching of Lane County history is outstandingly noteworthy.

c. Outstanding Organization Award. Recognition for outstanding contributions to the preservation, interpretation, conservation

and/or teaching of Lane County history during the previous year by an organization.

Nominations in the format of a letter should be forwarded to Bob Hart at director@lchm.org before December 1st. Nominations can be submitted by individuals or organizations and should include why the nominee qualifies for the award. See the our website at www.lchm.org for additional information.

Each award comes with a cash prize to the winner, not to be greater than \$500, which will be presented to the winner to further their activities or to the charitable organization of the winner's choice.

Awards are to be announced and presented at the LCHS annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 11, 2017.

Lane County Historical Society & Museum
740 West 13th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

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The Artifact



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We advertise exhibits and programs, new acquisitions, highlight images from the photo-collections and pass on information we think is of interest about local and national history. We look forward to seeing and hearing from YOU!

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