

LANE  
COUNTY  
HISTORY  
MUSEUM

# the ARTIFACT

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SPRING 2018 | NO. 227 | EXHIBITS, EVENTS, AND HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

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LOOKING FORWARD • MENTORCORPS PARTNERSHIP • DIRECTOR'S CORNER  
PIONEERING THE 21ST CENTURY: LCHM DIGITAL LAB • OREGONIANS AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR  
FLICKR COLLECTION • MAKE A DONATION

**LANE  
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HISTORY  
MUSEUM**

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Members..... FREE

*Go to [LCHM.org](http://LCHM.org) to learn more about  
free entry dates.*

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- Free admission to museum
- Invitations to members-only events
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- Discount on research requests
- Subscription to *The Artifact*  
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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:**

Editor & Design: Stephen O'Brien, LCHM  
staff members, and Guest contributors

# LOOKING FORWARD

## APRIL

**28**

Book Talk with Julie Furst Henning  
*100 Things to do in Eugene Before You Die*  
2 pm. LCHM.

**30**

MentorCorps Workshop: Collections Handling Basics  
10:00 am -1:00 pm. LCHM. RSVP.

## MAY

**9**

Trivia Night  
5:30 pm-7:00 pm. 5th St. Public Market Interna-  
tional Cafés. Friends, Food, Facts and FUN! Bring a  
team or come and make new friends. You could win  
fabulous prizes! Tables ready 5:30, Trivia starts at 6.

**TBA**

History Pub  
TBA

## JUNE

**1**

Last day to see our exhibit *Their Hearts Are in This  
Land*, a collaboration with the UO about Native  
American's continuing contributions to local culture.

## JULY

**17**

*Lane County: Would You Believe It?* exhibit opens  
Featuring never before seen photos and artifacts,  
and the amazing stories behind them. Learn things  
you never knew about our local history.



## MENTORCORPS PARTNERSHIP

*by Nick Chase, Digital Archivist*

There are about 1,000 cultural heritage organizations in Oregon working to preserve and display our state's history. Not every organization has state-of-the-art equipment or knowledge of how to go about that difficult task. Oregon Heritage, a division of Oregon Parks and Recreation, is stepping up to help all of these organizations – and committed individuals from local communities – through their MentorCorps program.

Oregon Heritage MentorCorps is a regional technical assistance effort designed to sustain Oregon's cultural and archival resources. The MentorCorps program works by facilitating communication, consultation and training as well as access to technical equipment and supplies between Oregon libraries, museums, and archival organizations engaged in heritage work across the state. Free workshops given by Mentorcorps volunteers provide organizations and individuals with the opportunity to learn how to preserve cultural and archival resources and to help each other in the ongoing effort to elevate the management and care of physical collections, as well as the development of Oregon's cultural institutions.

Last September MentorCorps chose Lane County History Museum to be our region's Partner Institution. The appointment acknowledges the work and expertise of our Collections staff and volunteers, and makes the museum a regional resource for the assistance of other local heritage organizations. We're excited to have taken on this role and to host our first MentorCorps workshop this April.

### WORKSHOP: COLLECTIONS HANDLING BASICS

MONDAY APRIL 30 (RSVP)

10AM-1PM

Tara Puyat, LCHM Registrar and Artifacts Manager and Faith Kreskey, LCHM Exhibits Curator, offer a workshop on the basics of collection handling. This is a great workshop for anyone interested in volunteering at the museum, or for current volunteers who want to gain more technical insight into handling and managing collection artifacts. You don't need any experience to attend the workshop, and you don't need to be an "official" museum staff member—all you need is interest and enthusiasm.

Space is limited, so we are asking for attendees to RSVP. Phone or email your reservation to [reception@lchm.org](mailto:reception@lchm.org).

LCHM will be offering more workshops in the coming months, stayed tuned for announcements. Meanwhile, learn more about MentorCorps at [www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/OHC/](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/HCD/OHC/) and [www.mindyourcollections.org](http://www.mindyourcollections.org).

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Bob Hart, Executive Director

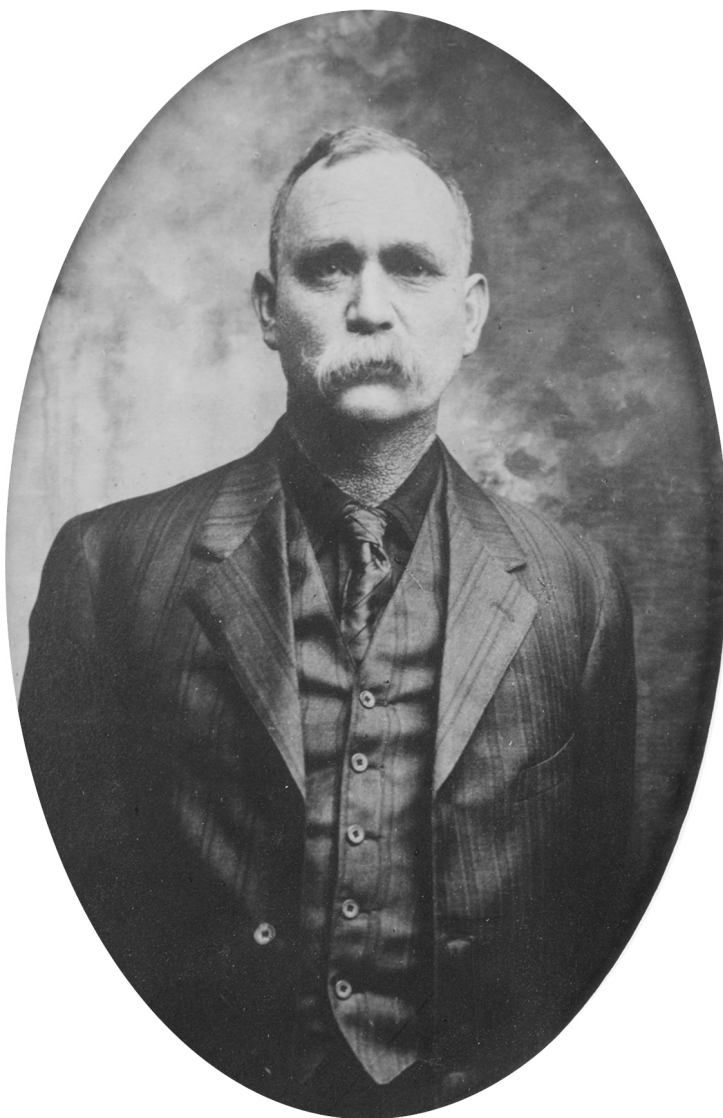
Spring has sprung and the grass is drowning! Oregon weather is very changeable and we have been experiencing days when Mother Nature seems quite confused... However, we are glad to bid a bad flu season goodbye.

The Museum is getting ready for our annual Pioneer Quilter's quilt show, an infusion of color which, with the new LED lighting, should be more naturally displayed than before. This year we have significantly expanded our existing system to assist in hanging the quilts, which will help immensely. *The Unbroken Thread* quilt show, which is in its 42nd year, is the Museum's largest fundraising event.

Other collaborative projects in various stages of development include our successful History Pub series with the University of Oregon's History Department, and the introduction of Trivia Nights at 5th Street Market (look for the next one on May 9 at 5:30pm). The marital connection between the Reed family (whose covered wagon we display) and the Applegate family (Hortense Reed married Thomas Applegate in 1875) is being explored to see what projects might emerge between LCHS and the non-profits represented at the Charles Applegate House in Yoncalla.

In an effort to address shortcomings in the historical record, members of our board development committee is trying to stay ahead of the state's new mandate for the public schools to teach Native American history and develop programming with the theme "the Oregon Trail Through Native Eyes." This will be done with other organizations and tribal representatives, possibly including the Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes, Komemama Cultural Protection Association, High Desert Museum, Applegate House Heritage Arts and Education Association, UO Museum of Natural and Cultural History, Eugene Assistance League, and Singing Creek Educational Center.

Spring also marks the beginning of LCHM's budgeting process and we are looking carefully at how to improve both our effectiveness and our offerings. Look for continued emphasis on our collections, their storage conditions, and record-keeping.



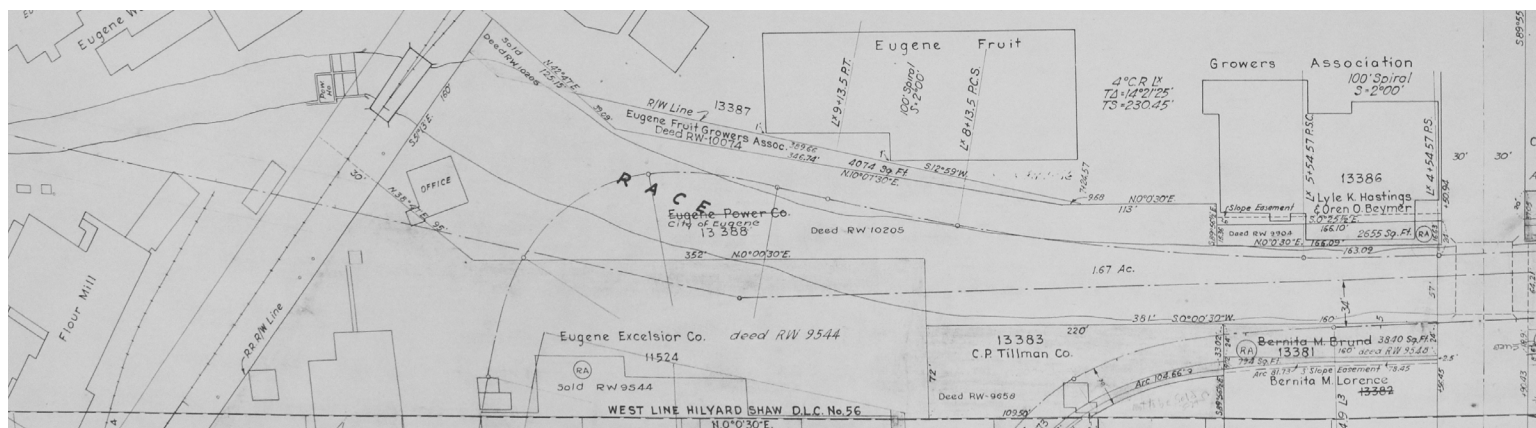
*Above: Tom Applegate circa 1910 - 1921.*

It is perhaps time to ask our members as to their preference for a new location. The board of directors has been mulling over potential sites. Stay tuned for an opportunity to tell us which site you think we should focus on.

Sincerely,

Bob Hart





Above: Mill Race map Dec. 1946.

## PIONEERING THE 21ST CENTURY: LANE COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM'S DIGITAL LAB

by Nick Chase, Digital Archivist

The Lane County History Museum is a place where the modern world meets the past. In step with our founding pioneer spirit, Lane County History Museum is building a Digital Lab, to make more of our collection accessible to the public than has been before – for instance, our unique map collection, which contains maps as large as 7x4 feet.

So, what is a Digital Archive? Digital Archives encompass all forms of digital, or in our case digital materials, including photographs, manuscripts, indexes, audio recordings and more. Digitizing is the process of making a computerized copy of a physical object, like taking a scan of a photograph or negative, or making a digital recording of a cassette tape.

As you can imagine, photographs and other flat objects, like maps, are a primary focus of digital archives. You can see many of our images on the LCHM web page and on our Flickr account, but we still have thousands more that haven't been digitized. Scanning LCHM's extensive photograph collection is an ongoing project, with no projected end date. The audio collection is much smaller, and our film collection smaller still, but these old-fashioned technologies are at risk of disappearing due to the natural deterioration of media, and need digitizing before those originals are no longer viable.

Digital Archives is a necessary part of museum work today. Every time these one-off items are handled it shortens the lifespan of the object, potentially making it

unavailable to future generations. That means that each picture, image, map, or book gets mindful, one-on-one treatment when it is digitized.

Building a Digital Archive brings the museum into the current stream of information and research making our collections accessible via the internet so that researchers from around the world have instant knowledge of what we have to offer.

The fun part of Digital Archives is being able to give you a glimpse of more museum treasures.

We've already started transforming the current workspace. Some things we're doing are as simple as painting, and getting new lights and furniture. As you might imagine, we're also investing in the equipment necessary to realize the best possible digital output. Thankfully, it won't break the bank. As technology has gotten better, it's also gotten cheaper and that makes this step into the future realistic for us.

To take that step we're working to raise \$10,000 in support of the new Digital Lab as well as other museum projects that are integrating more technology, including Museum Exhibits and Collections Management. Watch for upcoming information about how you can get involved with this exciting new project, supporting our mission to preserve and promote our wonderful historical resources.



## OREGONIANS AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

by Maria Elena S. McCoy, Ph.D. ACA, M.S.

*We are pleased to feature an article written by one of our volunteers Maria Elena McCoy. Maria Elena has a Ph.D. in Social Science and an M.A. Sociology. She has taught a variety of different subjects throughout her academic career, including History. She is very interested in cross cultural understanding, and is passionate about the history of her native Philippines. In her article she discusses her research about Oregon's involvement in the Spanish-American war. The stories and images from this war taken by local members of the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry will be featured in our upcoming exhibit Lane County: Would You Believe It? that opens in July.*

*-Faith Kreskey, LCHM Exhibits Curator*

*Above: GN7850, Troops from the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment take a rest break during a march along a water pipeline near Randong, 1898.*

*Right: GN7849, Troops from the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment shoot from a trench, 1898.*

In a corner of the Lane County History Museum is an often overlooked stone slab, part of a fountain erected in honor of the "Second Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment." Listed for posterity are approximately twenty names of men who served in defense of the United States and its policies overseas during the Spanish-American War, an altercation that later evolved into an altercation known as the Filipino-American War. Who knows Charles Horn, John A. Delaney, Will H. Baber, John H. Brewer and the many others listed?

We all need to draw lessons from the experience of the Oregon Volunteers who struggled to make sense of the challenge posed by the Philippine campaign of the late 1890's. They fought a war where the racial conflicts and economic policies of McKinley's "Manifest Destiny" was used to justify actions and decisions. Filipinos were seen as ignorant and uneducated, and therefore independence had to be "postponed" in order to educate them in West-



ern democratic principles and freedoms. The fact that the Philippine revolution was led by leaders trained and educated in Spain was set aside, as was the larger issue that the Filipinos already won the war. It became a war of conquest rather than liberation, and that was the war that our volunteers had to wage and explains in part why there was such brutality during the campaign.

Their story starts with the explosion of the battleship Maine in Cuba in February 15. Congress declared war on Spain on April 21, 1898, starting the Spanish-American War. President William McKinley's requested that Oregon to send an infantry regiment, preferably drawn from the Oregon National Guard, which was said to be one of the better equipped and trained guards in the United States. The Oregon First Regiment was organized in 1864 to guard trade routes and escort emigrant wagon trains. They were also involved in what is known as the Indian Wars—a government campaign to 'defend' America's western region from native inhabitants. By May 11, 1898, Oregon had organized the Second Regiment of the Oregon U.S. Volunteer Infantry.

## ***"Their story starts with the explosion of the battleship Maine..."***

"There were more than 1,300 volunteers from all over Oregon, with the average age of 25 years, 5 ft. 8 inches tall, weigh[ing] 148 lbs. Most were single; fewer than 10% had graduated from college, but were of varied professions – farmers, clerks, students, laborers"

Oregon History Project, 2018

The regiment organized at Camp McKinley located at the Irving Park racetrack in Portland. It left Portland for San Francisco on May 11 and 18, participating in the surrender of Guam on June 21 before landing in the Philippines. The Second Oregon Volunteer Infantry was initially sent to assist the Philippine freedom fighters in their independence movement against Spain.

"The experience of the Second Oregon Volunteers marked the shift from American foreign policy and its military organization. The Spanish-American War underlined the transition of American foreign policy from U.S. conquests in the American West to conquests abroad...It also marked a shift from the use of irregular forces to the more professional and bureaucratic armed forces of the 20th century"

Sean McEnroe, Oregon Historical Quarterly Vol. 104

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## OREGONIANS AND THE SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR

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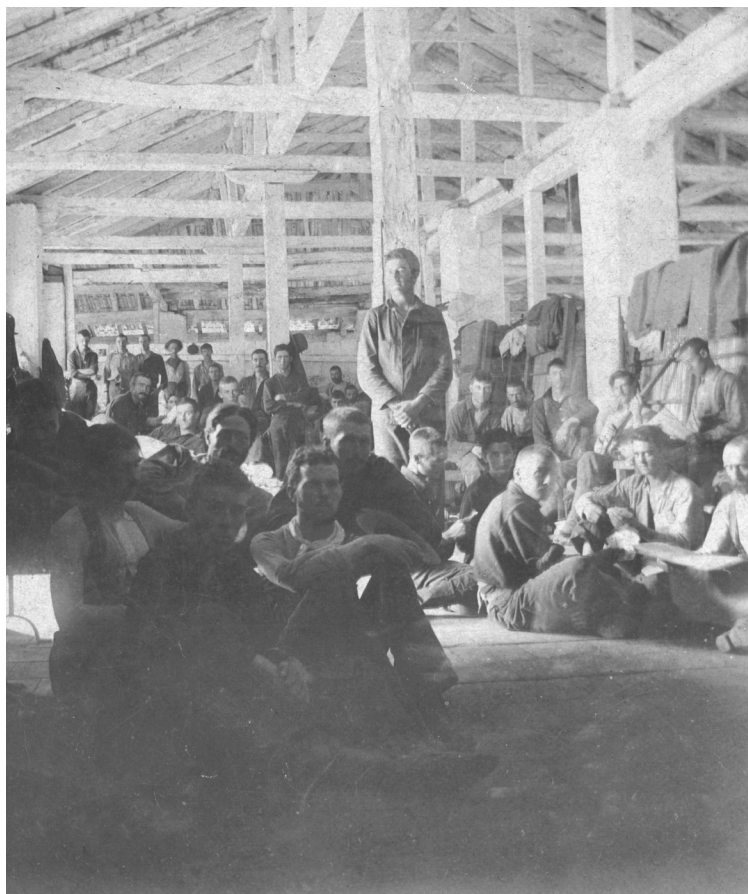
The Oregon Volunteers found themselves engaged in a political and diplomatic impasse upon their arrival in Manila. The Philippine nationalist freedom fighters led by General Emilio Aguinaldo had succeeded in defeating the Spaniards by besieging Manila on land, while the forces of Admiral George Dewey blockaded the port by sea. The Spanish officers preferred to surrender to the Americans out of fear and prejudice towards the Filipino nationalist forces. After only token resistance, the Spanish forces surrendered the city of Intramuros, Manila to American troops under Dewey. It was under these circumstances that the Oregon Volunteers entered the city in August, while their nominal Philippine allies remained outside the walls.

U.S. forces occupied Manila for five months while Spanish and U.S. diplomats negotiated a peace. Under the Treaty of Paris, signed on December 10, 1898, Spain ceded Manila, Cuba, Guam and other territories for one million dollars. The Philippine nationalists were left out in the cold, so Filipino troops continued the fight, eventually escalating into the Filipino-American War that would last until 1902.



*Above: WR123, Lt. Joseph Carrie, Captain W.S. Moon and Lt. R.S. Huston of the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment prior to leaving for Manila, Philippines, 1898. All three were residents of Eugene.*

*Left: GN7868 Company C, 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment on its way to the Philippines waiting in a covered dock area in San Francisco, 1898.*



The Second Oregon Volunteers returned to the United States on June 14, 1899, leaving Manila on the U.S.S. Newport and U.S.S. Ohio. The unit was among the first infantry units to return from the Philippines. Major General Henry Ware Lawton told the men: "You have nobly earned the reputation of being among the best soldiers of the American Army." They arrived in San Francisco on July 13, where 44 officers and 1024 enlisted men left the service of the United States on August 7, 1899. Casualties while in service included five wounded officers. Among the enlisted men, 69 were wounded and 55 killed (13 in action, 3 of wounds, 38 of disease, 1 by accident) and 3 desertions. The Oregon troops fought in a total of five campaigns and 42 battles over four months during their tour of duty.





They were greeted by enthusiastic crowds in Portland and were honored in a public ceremony at Multnomah Field. Three members of the regiment, Private Frank C. High of Jacksonville, Private Edward E. Lyon of Portland, and Private Marcus W. Robertson of Hood River, were awarded the Medal of Honor for Heroism while serving as Young's Scouts.

Unfortunately, it is often said that war is interpreted by the winners. Like all wars, the Philippine-American War had its own share of lies and half-truths. The political complexities of US and Philippine relations effected military actions, but U.S. military policy was also colored by President McKinley's doctrine of Manifest Destiny:

"Their own accounts of combat reveal the moral, political and practical complexities of the war. The troops suffered from limited training, outdated equipment, disease, and poor provisioning. On campaign, they fought some conventional battles, but they also burned villages, relocated populations by force, and tortured captives in an attempt to suppress a Philippine insurgency that enjoyed widespread popular support,"

Sean McEnroe, Oregon Encyclopedia.

Unfamiliar with the languages and cultures of the Philippines, the Oregon Volunteers struggled to make sense of the conflict. Though their period of active campaigning was relatively short, it took place during a time of rapidly escalating brutality. Surviving letters and diaries show that the soldiers categorized their opponents as "black" or "Indian" and by described the Philippine conquests as a continuation of North America's frontier wars. In the United States, policy makers and journalists debated America's role in the world and the future of post-colonial states, but on the ground in the Philippines, Oregon soldiers fought a terrifying war that they viewed through the prism of then-current American racial ideologies.

*Above: GN7836, Officers lead foot soldiers of the 2nd Oregon Volunteer Infantry Regiment down crowd-lined Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco, 1898.*





Above: GN2454, Jennifer Rowan-Henry's favorite photograph so far. This photograph is of Henry C. Cook with his three children at their vegetable stall in Eugene's first Producer's Market, c. 1917.

## FLICKR COLLECTION

by Jennifer Yeh, Membership and Volunteer Coordinator

Historic photographs have a way of transporting us back in time and helping us to imagine what it was like then. The Lane County History Museum is fortunate to have a large photograph and slide collection that has been donated to us over the years, and we are working on an ongoing project to digitize the images to make available online that vast and growing collection.

Searching such a large database has its challenges, especially when trying to simply browse. In 2016 it was decided that using an app called Flickr that is designed for sharing and organizing photos, we could make sharing our collection easier for both those with specific searches and casual admirers.

Fortunately for us, we have a volunteer who is a perfect fit to lead this effort: Jennifer Rowan-Henry, who started volunteering here in 2015. She has lived in Lane County

for 35 years, having grown up in Detroit, Michigan before getting her Master's Degree at the UO in Asian Art History. Rowan-Henry retired from the UO Libraries where she spent the last seven years working with the digital image collection at the School of Architecture and Allied Arts. In that position she trained student staff to digitize analog images from the school's teaching collection. The digital images were then cataloged and uploaded into the libraries' online digital collection.

Rowan-Henry read about the Don Hunter slide collection at the LCHM and decided to volunteer. She started by scanning and organizing that collection, but in the summer of 2016 she moved on to lead the new Flickr project, beginning with the J. Merle Nighswander collection, then the Don Hunter images, and finally focusing on selecting images taken from the museum's general collection.

We knew just dumping our photograph database into another program wasn't going to solve the problems with the current system. Rowan-Henry says that what she really likes about this project is being able to choose the images to edit. She aims for a balance between interesting content and good image quality.

"I like images that show how people lived and worked in Lane County from logging in the woods to fishing communities to scenes of town life. I'm very partial to posed photos of students and their teachers at small, rural schools. I try to include photos that show different forms of transportation: steam locomotives, horses and buggies, stage coaches, vintage trucks and automobiles," says Rowan-Henry, "I also love Oregon architecture, so I include examples of different styles of residential, commercial, civic, and industrial buildings. The history of Eugene's growth and urban development is compelling: textile and flour mills, the millrace, the cannery, livery stables, restaurants, barbershops, law offices, boarding houses, and civic institutions, and of course, the ever-changing panorama of the city as it stretches out to the horizon between the two buttes."

That's the main difference from the image collection searchable from our website: Flickr is curated. Images are specifically selected, cleaned up, repaired, and improved to be added to the app where they can be viewed in a much more appealing format. In addition, Rowan-Henry also cleans up the metadata. Over the years, many different people have worked in the image catalog, and thus there are many inconsistencies in the descriptive cataloging. The Flickr collection has set cataloging standards and best practices that are applied to every image. She also enriches the metadata with tagging, and that improves searchability. "We receive many requests to aggregate or share our images in other Flickr collections, and that enhances the collection's exposure and raises awareness of the Lane County History Museum. I'm really glad to be part of that," Rowan-Henry shared.

The Lane County History Museum's Flickr Collection can be reached from the homepage of our website. Another way to keep in touch with LCHM online is by liking our Facebook page where we post photographs, artifacts, upcoming events and other Museum activities.

# Would you like to make a donation?



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

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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)



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Exhibits, events, and historical happenings

SPRING 2018 NO. 227

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