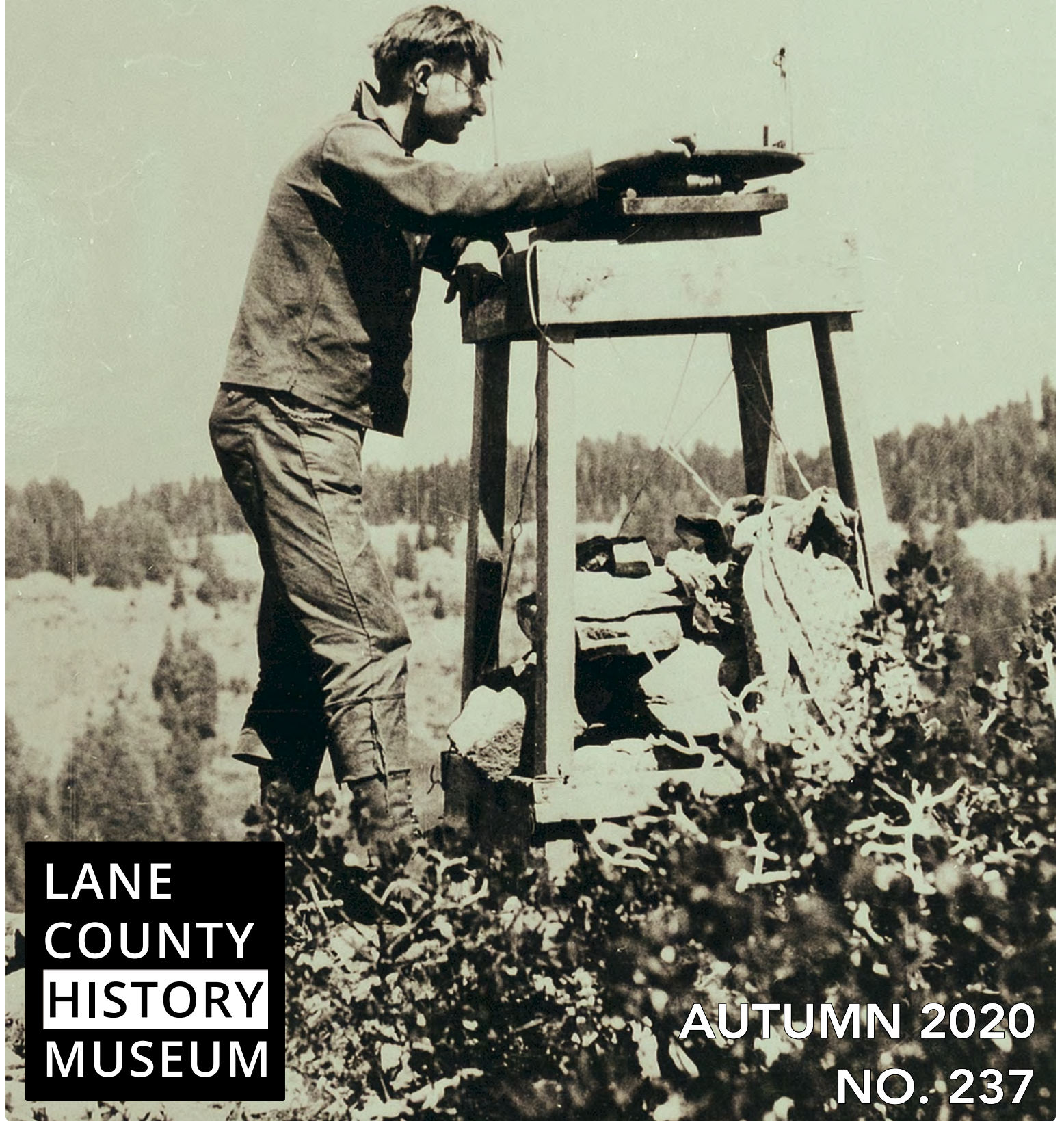


the
ARTIFACT



**LANE
COUNTY
HISTORY
MUSEUM**

**AUTUMN 2020
NO. 237**

- LOOKING FORWARD • DIRECTOR'S CORNER • FAITH MOVES ON •
- COVID-19 COLLECTION • ELLIS RUTLEDGE PARKER: A COUNTRY SCHOOLMASTER •
- MUSEUMS FOR DIGITAL LEARNING • HEAT PUMP INSTALL •

**LANE
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MUSEUM**

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LOOKING FORWARD



The Museum remains closed to the public through the ongoing Health Crisis. Remote and online services continue.

Stay informed by joining our email list:

lchm.org/join-our-mailing-list/

Our website, facebook and instagram contain a wealth of information easily accessed during this time. View our online collections at

lchm.pastperfectonline.com to catch a glimpse or dive deep into local history.

OCTOBER

12

History Pub Talk

Sherry Smith, Southern Methodist University
Bohemians West: Free Love, Family, and Radicals in Twentieth Century America

Zoom, 7- 9pm

Co-Sponsored by UO Department of History,
Viking Braggot, Lane County Cultural Coalition

NOVEMBER

9

History Pub Talk

Mark Harris, Lane Community College
We, Too, Are Eugene

Zoom, 7-8:30pm

Co-Sponsored by UO Department of History,
Viking Braggot, Lane County Cultural Coalition

DECEMBER

14

History Pub Talk

TBA

Zoom, 7-8:30pm

Co-Sponsored by UO Department of History,
Viking Braggot, Lane County Cultural Coalition

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Bob Hart, Executive Director

A good friend of mine, a retired journalist, has coined a term for our community, state, national, and international moment in time as “cascading catastrophes.” I think it most apt, and so I share it.

How is LCHM responding to the overlapping crises we all face daily?

In response to the pandemic, Governor Brown ordered museums closed in March. LCHM complied and has been closed to public visitation since then, now more than half a year. Due to Federal Payroll Protection Plan funding, LCHM has retained most of its staff, demonstrating our commitment to investment in our hard-to-replace human capital. Working from a combination of onsite and remote locations, we have continued to field research requests, fill photo orders, continue previously contracted grant projects, and forge forward with the backlog of collections and administrative paperwork that seems to accumulate faster than it can be processed.

Covid-19 is known to be spread by droplets and aerosols. Before LCHM can safely reopen to the public—never mind safely reaccommodate staff and invaluable volunteers—it has been necessary to address some of our facility’s shortcomings. Our 1951/59 building has extremely poor air circulation. With fall approaching, using the existing forced-air heating system would invite COVID spread. By the time you read this column the Museum will be benefiting from the installation of two new, large, commercial ductless heat pump units to circulate air and help introduce a more constant temperature regime for the collections, visitors, and staff. On back order are the UV filter units which will kill mold, as well as the COVID virus.

Our state and local social ferment in this presidential election year is reflected both in our newly adopted strategic plan, which includes a diversity, equity and inclusion component. We have marketed ourselves as telling “Your Stories” and we are endeavoring to collect individual stories and materials relating to countywide social justice activities (visit our website at lchm.org).

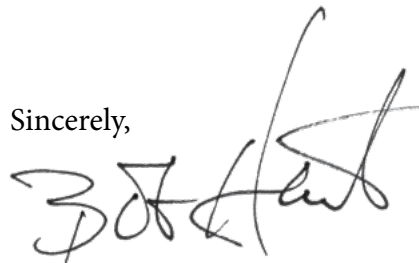
Our first History Pub of the season held on September 14 was dedicated to the discussion of a potential change in county name.

We are reaching out to selected McKenzie River corridor community organizations with an offer of support in order to record and collect the stories and items reflecting the major tragedy associated with the still-burning Holiday Farm fire.

Less well-known is the impending crisis concerning the LCHS lease agreement which expires on 6/30/2025. To-date county officials have been unable to discuss a lease extension because Lane Events Center future planning is ongoing (and has been for several years!). It would be irresponsible for our board not to be concerned with potentially losing our present county-owned facility. Our new strategic plan makes acquisition of an adequate museum storage facility, that could double as the Museum’s temporary home, a priority (our previous plan focused on acquisition of the downtown U.S. Post Office, once for sale during the years 2010 and 2011).

LCHM is responding to the crises of 2020. To help us continue our important work into the future please remain supporters, maintaining, and where possible, upgrading your memberships. And, where appropriate, please remember LCHS in estate planning.

Sincerely,



Bob Hart

Former LCHM Curator Faith Kreskey Takes on a New Role

by Faith Kreskey, Head of Lincoln County Historical Society

After five years as Exhibits Curator at the Lane County History Museum, Faith Kreskey has taken a new position as head of the Lincoln County Historical Society in Newport. She now oversees the Lincoln County Historical Society Archives, the Burrows House, and the Pacific Maritime Heritage Center. On her work in museums and historical organizations “I have a true passion for the inspiring and collaborative environment museums provide and am personally dedicated to history education and preservation.”

A lifelong Oregonian who grew up in Reedsport, Faith is excited to return to the coast. She also looks forward to the new opportunities to explore the history of Lincoln County and share the stories of our past with the community. On her approach to local history Faith says “My focus is always on how our ties to place bring us together, and what we can learn from the lives and actions of those who came before us.”



A Personal Note from Faith Kreskey

I want to thank the LCHM membership for their support of my projects and programming over the past five years. I have been able to hone my research and museum leadership skills in a way that I think will help my career for years to come. It has been truly rewarding to uncover forgotten parts of Lane County’s past and turn them into visually interesting exhibits, and I hope that I have in some small way changed the way people think about our community.

Our Stories.

Today’s story is still unfolding; tomorrow we will tell it together.

COVID-19 Collection

by Jennifer Yeh, Membership & Volunteer Coordinator



Contribute to History in the Making

Lane County History Museum Looks to Community to Preserve the Story of COVID-19

The COVID-19 pandemic is creating a mark on our community, a truly historic event that may have lasting effect generations from now. The Lane County History Museum needs the help of our entire community to properly document this experience for future exhibits, researchers and Lane County residents to look back at generations from now.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly changed our community and individual lives in ways that will have both short and long lasting effects,” explains Archivist and Research Librarian Allison Fischer-Olson from the Lane County History Museum, “This project aims to document how we dealt with these changes while they were happening, and we hope that the collection will give future Lane County residents the ability to look back on this time and understand how we were feeling, coping, and working together to weather the hardships.”

A single event can be experienced differently. LCHM wants to capture a variety of perspectives and experiences of people, but also of businesses and other organizations. How did you adapt to this new environment, what did you choose to do or had to do differently?

This collection is not just for adults – the museum emphasizes the goal is to capture the experiences of all ages. Childhood possessions, artwork or oral experiences are most often collected after we have grown. By collecting these directly from young people, we can get a more authentic experience.

“We are really asking people to get creative,” says Executive Director Robert Hart. “Some of the items offered may be directly related to adapting to a pandemic or staying safe, but others might be something you created, photographed or used that is less obviously connected. The story behind an object is a huge part of that makes it meaningful to future generations.”

To get more information on this collection campaign, and how you, your business or organization can submit an item to be considered, go to our website at lchm.org/covid-collection/

Due to the pandemic the museum is currently closed to the public. If your submission is chosen you will be contacted once the museum is able to safely welcome people and artifacts.

Ellis Rutledge Parker: A Country Schoolmaster

by *Graham B. Parker, Guest Author*

Graham B. Parker is the great grandson of Ellis R. Parker and lives in Camas, WA.



GN5454. *Joseph M. Parker Family, c. 1886*

Ellis Rutledge Parker was born on November 18, 1869 to Joseph M. Parker and Caroline Roselle *Rutledge* Parker in the family home built by his father in Dexter, Oregon. Ellis's parents, Joseph Monroe Parker and Caroline Rutledge, migrated west from Illinois in the wagon train of 1853. This wagon train of nearly 2,000, was led by Captain Frazier, John and Phoebe Stoops, and Caroline's parents, Blasengim and Mary Rutledge.

Unlike the "Lost Wagon Train" of 1853 led by Elijah Elliott, the Frazier party took the well-known Columbia River route and followed the Willamette River upstream from Oregon City in to the Willamette Valley. In October 1853, the Stoop, Parker and Rutledge families along with other members of the Frazier wagon train came to (Jacob) Spores Ferry on the McKenzie River near Coburg. This ferry carried foot passengers across the river in a canoe—later replaced with a railroad bridge in the 1850s. After crossing the river, they came to Springfield where the Elias M. Briggs family operated a saw and grist mill. The Briggs family was the first to settle in Springfield in 1848. The next day the travelers came to the land they were seeking: Pleasant Hill where the Elijah Bristow and Robert Callison

families, who likewise had taken the Oregon Trail, had been living for five or six years.

Ellis was the third child and second son born to Joseph and Caroline Parker. His older sister Cecelia was born in 1859; his older brother Clement was born in 1864; his younger brother Ferd (Ferdie) was born in 1876 and younger sister Georgia was born in 1884. All the Parker siblings were born in the family home in Dexter.

Ellis was educated at the Trent school near Pleasant Hill. He was a smart and ambitious student with a flair for "book learnin", and on April 5, 1885 at the young age of 15 after finishing high school, he chose to become a teacher.

He started teaching in the Zion district, near Dexter, in a one-room schoolhouse. At that time, most teachers were female and additional salaries (above the ~\$45/month) were paid to induce men to enter teaching. His first class was approximately a dozen pupils from 6 to 16 years old, and spanning several grades. Ellis not only taught, but attended to other duties such as sweeping, cleaning and tending the box stove to heat the building. This started a life-long career in education.

In those days there was no hope of pension for educators; teachers ranked with the preacher as the trouble-sharer and moral counselor of the community, and were meant to stand as examples of sobriety and integrity.



GN4278. *Trent school where Ellis Parker first taught, c. 1900*

In the late 1890's, Ellis met Rose Ennis Holbrook, born August 11, 1872 to David R. Holbrook and Margaret M. Crouse Holbrook in Laurel Springs North Carolina. Rose and her older sister Elizabeth traveled West with her mother and father and settled in the Dexter area in 1887. Ellis and Rose were married on October 1, 1889 near Dexter in Fall Creek, Oregon. Ellis built his own home in Dexter in 1890 and he and Rose lived there for 17 years until they moved to Eugene in 1907 to another home they built at 1465 West 11th Street.

Ellis recounts the day he married "a darling" in a remembrance he wrote celebrating their 44th Anniversary in 1933:

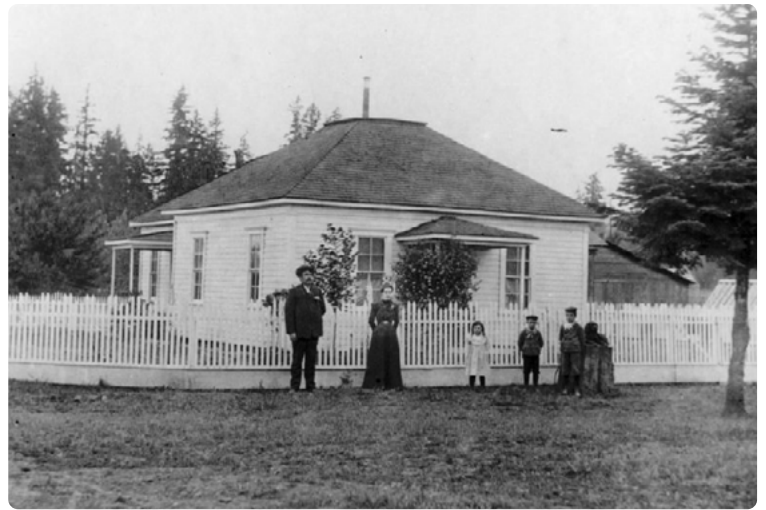
"To begin with on the night of Sept. 30, I was permitted to sleep very little because of the fact that another bed in the same room of my father's house was occupied by an old man named "Uncle Tom Warner" who persisted in talking to me until the wee small hours of the morning, until I thought I should die for want of sleep. But morning came at last and the eventful day.

I drove my father's light team and 'hack' to the home of my wife's brother on Big Fall Creek. His name was Jesse F. Holbrook. It stood on the north bank of the creek about one mile east of the big gorge. A group of friends and relatives were gathered for the event. The wedding dinner was somewhat unique. It was prepared mainly by Mrs. Mary Griffin, generally known as Grandma Griffin. I



"Hunting Party"

Sitting: Joseph Parker, Ennis Parker, Caroline Parker
Standing: Dan Parker, Reese Parker, Hosee Parvin, Lon Addington, Ellis Parker



GN4876. Ellis Parker Residence, Dexter, OR. c.1900
Ellis, Rose, Ethel, Joe, and Verlin

remember that the sourdough biscuits were quite solid of texture." The cook remarked that she could "knock a bull down across the creek with one." The ceremony was pronounced by a Justice of the Peace, Thomas H. Hunsaker, from nearby Lowell. Besides him there are only three persons at present living who attended the wedding: Mack Holbrook of Portland, Oregon, Maud Vallespin of Sacramento and Wesley Neet of Dexter."

Ellis and Rose enjoyed life in rural Lane County, farming, hunting and fishing with friends and family.

Life in Eugene

In 1907, after teaching in several little country schools around the Pleasant Hill area, Ellis took a position in Eugene as Principal of Geary Grade School (grades 1-8) under school superintendent Mort H. Arnold.¹ The pay for a principal in the Eugene School District No. 4 was \$70/month. Geary Grade School was located at 751W. 4th Street and was the first 'large' school in Eugene. Dr. Edward R. Geary, missionary and educator, was born in Boonsboro, Maryland on April 30, 1811. He arrived in Oregon in 1851 as a Presbyterian missionary, preaching at Brownsville, Pleasant Grove and Albany, before settling in Eugene in 1875. In 1866, Geary co-founded Albany College, now Lewis & Clark College, and in 1876 became a regent of the University of Oregon. Geary served as Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon and Washington Territory from 1859-1861.

<Article continues on next page>

A Country Schoolmaster, Continued

by *Graham B. Parker, Guest Author*

At that time, Eugene supported schools through a levy. Central Grade School opened in 1878. Geary Grade School opened in 1890. The city opened Eugene High and Patterson Grade Schools in 1903.

Eugene began experiencing growing pains in 1915-1916. At that time,

District No. 4 operated six schools: Geary, Central, Patterson, Lincoln and Condon² elementary schools, and Eugene High School. Crowded conditions in elementary schools were relieved somewhat in 1925 when two new junior high schools (grades 7-9) were opened and the original junior high at 13th and Olive was converted to an elementary school and renamed Frances Willard.

Progressive reduction in enrollments in several elementary schools resulted in closing Geary School at the end of 1932-33 school year.³ Students were transferred to Whiteaker, Washington, Willard and Lincoln with general expressions of approval by the community. Geary School had served Eugene well for 43 years and was the last vestige of a by-gone era. A farewell reunion was attended by nearly 300 former pupils and friends to share a basket dinner and hear a farewell talk by Ellis R. Parker, who had served as principal for 26 years since 1907.

After the closure of Geary Grade School, Ellis was transferred to become the principal at Whiteaker Grade School where he served for five years. He then left the Eugene District to teach two years at Creswell High School, one year at Jasper Grade School and three years at Alvadore Grade School, 9 miles northwest of Eugene. He finally retired in 1944 after nearly 60 years of teaching at 16 different schools. At his retirement he noted that he was often greeted as “professor,” which was the common title for educators of that day, but that never once had any of his former pupils referred to him as “old man Parker”!



GN2224. Geary School with Students, c. 1890



Geary School Faculty and Students, 1902

Ray Hendrickson, former principal of North Eugene High school, attended Geary School as a 7th grader while Ellis was principal. Hendrickson tells me, “Mr. Parker had a respectable paunch, gray hair and ran a tight ship... [his name] goes somewhere high up in the list of Lane County’s memorable country schoolmasters.” Incidentally, Hendrickson was principal at North when I attended school there.

Ellis made teaching his way of life and he did a good job of it. Ellis said, “You have to live your work to stay with it over a long period time. I like to teach, I like children, so it was I just kept on teaching.”

During the time he was principal, Ellis took night work at the University of Oregon and correspondence courses to improve his education. As a teacher, Ellis believed in teaching old-fashioned fundamentals⁴ including arithmetic using the “blackboard method.” As principal, Ellis had a heart for children and believed in showing them the way and “having a little faith in them.” In 1946, Ellis received the Eugene Lion’s Award Citation for citizenship and service to recognize his years of education in Lane County. The award was presented by a former pupil of his.

While Ellis taught, Rose was a full-time homemaker and mother, beginning when their first child, Verlin, was born (1891).

Ellis and Rose had six children of which five reached adulthood: Vernon born 1891 (who lived one month); Verlin Edward born 1892⁵; Joseph Letcher born 1894; Ethel Marie born 1896; Erma Laurel born 1905; and Norman Jesse born 1906. They had three grandchildren: Caroline Ennis and Graham Ellis the children of Verlin Edward and wife Luella (Graham) Parker, and Bonnie Jo who was the daughter of Erma Laurel and Fred Burton. The grandchildren (and great-grandchildren) loved to spend time at the Parker's home, which was lush with trees and flowers. Rose died in 1950 at age 77 and Ellis continued to live in their home in Eugene until he died a year later in 1951 at age 82. Ellis and Rose are interred at Lincoln Memorial Park Mausoleum in Portland Oregon.

Ellis Parker Elementary School

In 1957 the Eugene School District 4J voters approved the construction of a new grade school to serve students in the Amazon neighborhood. The Eugene School Board held hearings concerning the naming of the new school and responded to popular feeling in the community to name a school after Ellis Parker to honor this popular and long-time Lane County educator. Construction at 3875 Kincaid Street was started in 1959⁶ and the school for grades 1-6 opened that September with the mascot of "Panthers" and red and black school colors. For the first months of operation, classes were held in Harris Grade School while the Parker building was readied for occupancy. Portions of the starter unit of the school were "roughed in," and classroom additions were made later. Projections called for 175 students, however 230 students reported on opening day from a fast-growing neighborhood.

Ellis' daughters Mrs. Fred (Erma Parker) Burton and Mrs. Joe (Ethel Parker) Hayward, and Bonnie Jo Burton, Erma's daughter and granddaughter of Ellis and Rose, attended the dedication of the school on November 7, 1960. The school closed in 2012 due to funding shortfalls for Eugene Schools.



Rose and Ellis on their 60th Anniversary

Source: Graham Parker



Ellis Parker Family circa 1940. Back Row: Verlin, Erma, Luella, Caroline & Ellis; Front Row: Graham Ellis & Rose

Source: David Yaden (great grandson of Ellis)

You can view a virtual exhibit on Eugene's Earliest Schools via our website: lchm.org/story-maps/

1 Sources for documenting Ellis' teaching career include: "Ellis Parker, 'A Country Schoolmaster'" article in the Register Guard (date unknown); "Dedication of Ellis Parker School", Eugene, OR November 7, 1960; "Lions Award Citation to E.R. Parker", Eugene Register Guard article 1946; "Couple Observes Sixtieth Wedding Anniversary", Eugene Register Guard; and Herman Lawson, 1985: A System of Uncommon Schools. The History of the Eugene School District 4J 1854-1985.

2 The author attended both Lincoln and (new) Condon schools.

3 It opened again as the Eugene Vocational School in 1938 and was permanently closed in 1960.

4 One of Ellis' favorite "fundamental" references was the Century Book of Facts Standard Edition. His copy printed in 1908 is in the possession of the author.

5 Verlin Edward Parker is the grandfather of the author.

6 Appropriately Kincaid Street was named for Harrison R. Kincaid, an early pioneer and former Oregon Secretary of State who came as a lad with his family on the 1853 wagon train and settled in Eugene (Source: www.oregonpioneers.com).

New Platforms for Learning: LCHM Digital Archives Takes on Education

by Nick Chase, Digital Archivist & Creative Assets Manager

Last November I attended the Museum Computer Network Conference, an international gathering of Digital Platforms Experts from around the world. At the conference I met Institute of Museums and Library Services Deputy Director of Museums, Paula Gangopadhyay, and secured LCHM a spot as a Beta-Tester with a project she presented with the Newfields Museum of Indianapolis: Museums for Digital Learning, or MDL.

The MDL project is an online repository of assets intended for educational use. The web interface (not accessible at this time) allows educators to search for digital teaching materials and to access those as classroom aids. Local and National education standards are employed to create activities that can be turned in as homework.

As an LCHM/Digital Archives initiative, the MDL project echoes projects I managed as Education Outreach Director for Wizard Music Inc. in Los Angeles. Technology has evolved: the MDL project takes place entirely online, where Wizard Music's education program developed classroom curricula utilizing custom software. MDL will put museum artifacts and knowledge-bases into classrooms, where Wizard Music extracted portions of its proprietary software to put into museums. Newfields Museum acts as creative partner to IMLS; Wizard Music Inc. partnered with the Rockefeller Foundation. And where Wizard Music Inc. put digital education into underserved communities across the country, MDL may put prismatic new resources into the hands of instructors everywhere, without borders.

Museums for Digital Learning is a simple project, and aligns with initiatives I designed for LCHM's Digital Archives' in 2017: To produce, preserve and maintain high-quality digital resources for LCHM users and community of researchers who may access digital resources from any point worldwide.

An added pleasure to the project is to work with LCHM Board Member, Karen Olsen, herself a committed lifelong educator. We have agreed that LCHM's contribution to the MDL database will reflect the museum's current Diversity, Equity and Inclusion charge.

Digital Archives' contribution to the IMLS/MDL project helps LCHM remain relevant in the Digital Age and fulfills a broader community need during COVID times.

Heat Pump Installation

The museum is improving our air quality! With assistance from Automatic Heat Company and GMD Electric, the museum has installed two ductless heat pumps in the exhibit area. These will improve our air circulation, keep the building at a more stable temperature, and (once the filters arrive) will kill bacteria, mold, and viruses.

This improvement to the building is primarily supported by a Lane County Cultural Coalition Oregon Cultural Trust grant under the federal CARES Act.





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EXHIBITS, EVENTS, AND HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

AUTUMN 2020 NO. 237

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