

A black and white photograph of a snowy forest path. Tall evergreen trees are heavily laden with snow. In the middle ground, a group of people are skiing down the path. In the foreground, a dark-colored dog is walking on the snow. The overall scene is a serene winter landscape.

# the ARTIFACT

LANE  
COUNTY  
**HISTORY**  
MUSEUM

WINTER 2021  
NO. 238

- LOOKING FORWARD • DIRECTOR'S CORNER • WENDLING STORY MAP •
- PREPPING THE DRIFT BOAT • BORN DIGITAL ARCHIVE •
- MUSEUMS FOR DIGITAL LEARNING •

# LANE COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

740 West 13<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Eugene, OR

## MAILING

Lane County Historical Society  
P.O. Box 5407  
Eugene OR 97405-3819

## CALL US

Office (541) 682-4242

## LCHM.ORG

We are continuing to offer services digitally while the building is closed.

## FOLLOW US

facebook.com/lchm.org/  
flickr.com/photos/lanehistory/  
youtube.com/lchmorg  
instagram.com/lanecountyhistorymuseum/

## BECOME A MEMBER

Sign up! The benefits include:

- Free admission to the museum
- Invitations to members-only events
- Subscription to *The Artifact* & *Lane County Historian*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## MUSEUM PRESS:

Historical Society Publications are available for purchase at the Museum.

## THE ARTIFACT IS PRODUCED BY:

Design: Stephen O'Brien  
LCHM staff members and  
guest contributors.

*Front cover: GN5980. The Willamette Pass Ski Area on Highway 58 in its 1st year of operation, c. 1951*

# 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/](https://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](https://lchm.pastperfectonline.com)** to catch a glimpse or dive deep into local history.

## JANUARY

# 11

### History Pub Talk

Dr. Annelise Heinz

*Jewish Women, A Chinese Game, and the Challenges of Postwar Domesticity*

Zoom, 7- 9pm

Co-Sponsored by the UO Department of History and Viking Braggot

## FEBRUARY

# 8

### History Pub Talk

TBA

Zoom, 7-9pm

Co-Sponsored by the UO Department of History and Viking Braggot

## MARCH

# 8

### History Pub Talk

TBA

Zoom, 7-9pm

Co-Sponsored by the UO Department of History and Viking Braggot

## DIRECTOR'S CORNER

*by Bob Hart, Executive Director*

Most of you are probably familiar with my penchant for telling stories, so please indulge me now. Back in August 2016 a gentleman drove into what was still called the Museum Courtyard with a boat in tow. Wally Larsen, the boat's owner, wished to make a donation of his boat to the LCHM, but there was a catch.

You see Wally was an avid fisherman and the boat was old (about the same age as the 1959 addition to the museum). Wally was also not getting any younger and he knew that his boating days would come to an end in the not too distant future, so he invited me to look more closely at this beauty of a boat. "Bob," he said, "I want the museum to have this boat, but I am not ready to part with it quite yet. But when I am done with fishing, I will bring her by again." Wally wanted this boat appreciated by Lane County residents in the future.

Wally did not know, but probably could have guessed, that very high on Bob's mental museum acquisition list was having a classic drift boat to display. As I pored over the boat and took photos, Wally discoursed about this boat. Wally's dad had been a McKenzie River guide and this was his boat, passed on to son, Wally. And the boat was designed and built by none other than the legendary Prinz Helfrich! This was no ordinary McKenzie river drift boat- but the story got even better.

Fire in Lane County has been a part of our area's story for a long time. The Kalapuya used controlled fire to keep the valley open, encouraging wildlife, helping prepare wild foodstuffs, and discouraging Douglas fir encroachment. In 1911, a fire burned the Booth Kelly mill in Springfield to the ground leaving workers without those jobs for a year. Wildfires have left lasting effects on the people and land of Lane County. The Larsen drift boat, too, has a history that involves fire. It survived a storage facility fire, which destroyed the facility, but spared the boat.

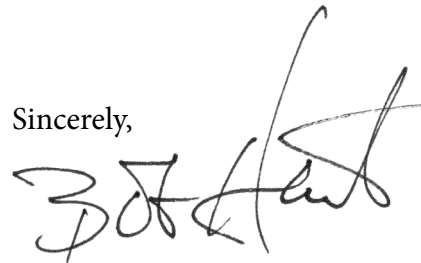
Wally contacted us again this summer and said he was ready to part with the boat. This occasioned quite a scramble for museum staff and board members. But, for all of you former Paul Harvey fans, I am going to leave it

to Collections Manager Tara Puyat to finish the rest of the story later in this newsletter.

The facility improvements mentioned in the last newsletter have all been installed, but we could not have done these things without extraordinary grant support from our friends at both the Oregon Community Foundation and the Oregon Cultural Trust.

LCHM hopes to reopen to the public sometime during spring 2021 with a brand new exhibit featuring the Larsen drift boat. Please mark your calendars when we announce an opening date.

Sincerely,



Bob Hart



*Moving the drift boat into the museum,  
Stephen O'Brien, LCHM Staff*

## Lost Towns: Wendling

by Allison Fischer-Olson, Archivist & Research Librarian

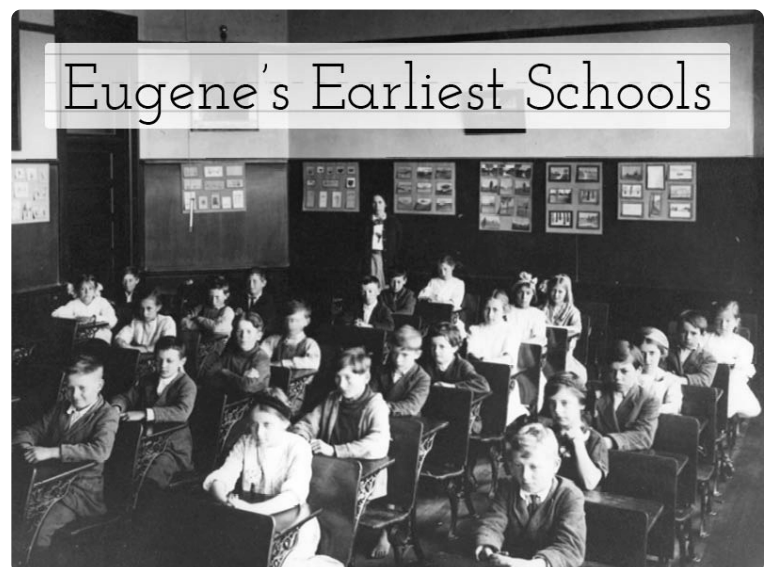
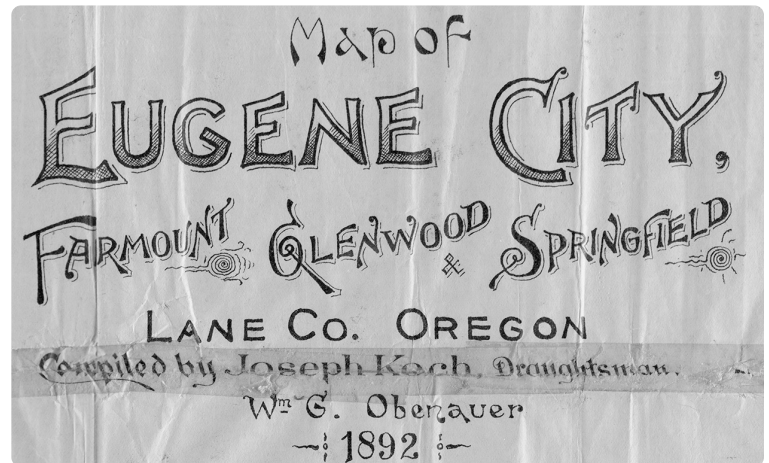
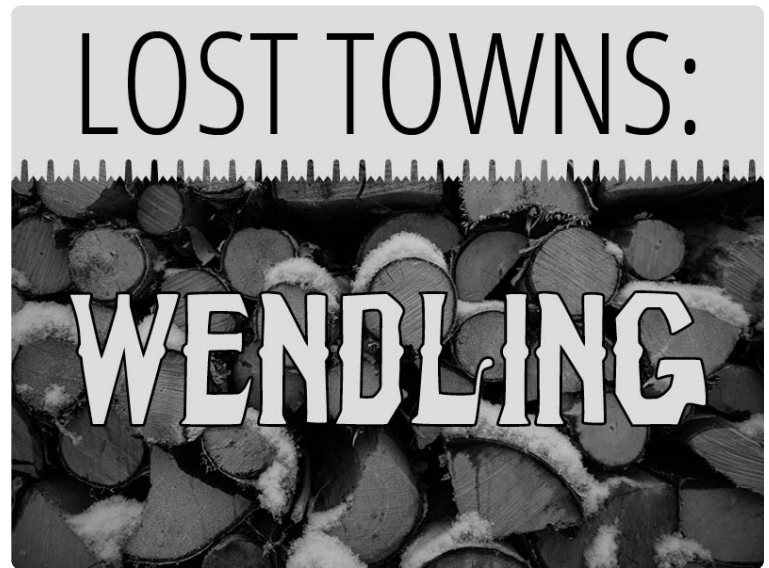
### Coming Soon: A New Online Exhibit

While Lane County History Museum has been unable to welcome the public through our doors, we have been working on ways to reach you all virtually. We hope you have had a chance to check out our first two Story Maps, “Scenes from 1892 in Eugene, Oregon” and “Eugene’s Earliest Schools.” A third Story Map, called “Lost Towns: Wendling,” is being finalized for release soon. This online exhibit is adapted from the popular exhibit, “Lost Towns: Revisiting Logging Communities,” which was up at LCHM October 2016 – September 2017. A scaled down version of this exhibit will be up in the museum upon reopening. The online exhibit, Lost Towns: Wendling, was created as a companion to it, providing additional content.

Like the original, the Lost Towns: Wendling online exhibit stems from an abundance of historical photographs and rich oral history accounts. Focused specifically on the town of Wendling, the new exhibit additionally features a different selection of photographs from the personal archive of Wendling historian, Jay Swofford. Swofford has built a public digital archive using Flickr, where he shares not only historical photographs, but also a wealth of information from his research. In the Story Map, each photograph contributed from Swofford’s collections is accompanied by a link to the image on Swofford’s Flickr page, where you can read additional information. Swofford was extremely generous with his time, knowledge, and research material in putting this online version of Lost Towns together. We would like to sincerely thank him for collaborating on this exhibit, and for his support of LCHM.

LCHM’s Story Map online exhibits can be found on our website, in the Exhibits section.

[lchm.org/story-maps/](http://lchm.org/story-maps/)



# Prepping a Drift Boat for its Next Journey

by Tara Puyat, Collections Manager

Accepting a new donation into a museum is an involved process. There are important steps that need to be taken in order to ensure that anything brought into the museum does not bring with it pests or other contaminants that can harm the existing collection. Thus cleaning and quarantine are essential parts of any acquisition plan.



*Preparing to move the boat*

Recently, LCHM became the fortunate recipient of a McKenzie River drift boat, a special donation for any museum to receive. However, such a large object requires extra special care and effort in order to make certain of its safe introduction to the museum space. First of all, the museum has the responsibility of keeping the boat under conditions that are safe for the boat so that it can be viewed and enjoyed by future generations. This is partly done by making sure that temperature and relative humidity within the storage and exhibits spaces are within safe ranges for a wooden object. Fortunately, two new heat pumps were recently installed in the LCHM exhibits area to facilitate air purification. These heat pumps will also allow better control of temperatures in the building, keeping them within optimal ranges. The heat pumps used in conjunction with new temperature and humidity monitors puts LCHM staff in a better position to care for its collection than ever before.

The second thing to consider is the importance of preventing the boat from inadvertently exposing the existing collection to anything harmful. There are standard protocols to be followed, but this process is made more

complicated by the size of the 14 foot long boat. A good place to begin is to give the boat a thorough inspection and cleaning.

*Steps taken in cleaning and processing the McKenzie River Drift Boat:*

1. Clean dirt and dust off all surfaces of the boat using soft-bristled brushes. The dust can be directed toward the nozzle of a vacuum cleaner that has been covered with mesh. This allows for dirt to be removed and vacuumed away, yet provides a level of protection from accidentally losing pieces of the boat that may be loose. This cleaning took Collections Manager, Tara Puyat and Archivist and Research Librarian, Allison Fischer-Olson the better part of a day to complete.
2. While the boat is being brushed, inspect the boat for signs of insect and pest infestation, as well as for other contaminants. Happily, the boat appeared to be in excellent condition with no immediate sign for concern.
3. Once the boat is cleaned, cover all vertical surfaces with white, acid free paper. This increases the visibility of anything that may hatch out in the boat during its quarantine period. Place insect monitoring traps in the boat.

*Step 1: cleaning the boat.*





## Drift Boat, continued

by Tara Puyat, Collections Manager

4. Due to the size of the boat, use plastic sheeting to construct a plastic bag to seal the boat in for quarantine. Having a plastic crimp sealer is critical to be able to make the airtight seal needed for vacuum sealing. Before the final seal, place a temperature and relative humidity data logger in the bag to monitor environmental conditions. This step was an all-hands-on-deck situation due to the need to lift the boat. Many thanks to all the LCHM staff, as well as to LCHM Board President Bart Aikens and his brother Quinn for helping out.
5. Leave the boat sealed for 2-3 months. This will allow any pests to hatch out and die from lack of air. If nothing hatches out, then the boat can be taken out and prepared for display at the end of the quarantine period. If a serious infestation is detected, then pest management professionals should be contacted. The boat is currently in its quarantine period and should be ready for exhibit preparation by March, should all go well.

Due to the nature of the boat and the limitations of LCHM facilities, special accommodations had to be made to facilitate the acceptance of the drift boat in the desired timeline.

*Step 3: placing paper and insect traps.*



*Step 4: sealing the enclosure.*

1. Board member Casey Barrett kindly donated a safe and protected storage space for the boat until such time that LCHM staff was able to make arrangements for the treatment and transfer of the boat onsite for its quarantine. Board Vice President Bill Barrett helped to facilitate transport of the boat, as well as communication with donor Wally Larsen.
2. Due to limited space in the LCHM building, arrangements were made with the Lane County Fairgrounds to make use of one of their buildings to provide a climate controlled and indoor space where the boat could safely undergo treatment.
3. All outdoor transport activity had to be timed with the weather in mind. Thank goodness that the weather cooperated and the boat benefited from several sunbreaks despite the drizzly days of fall.

As can be discerned, a lot of work goes into caring for a museum collection that the public is often not aware of. Our community's continued support helps us to carry out this important, behind the scenes work. Thank you to our membership and our county residents for believing in our mission—we couldn't do this without you.

# Birthing the Born Digital Archive

by Nick Chase, Digital Archivist & Creative Assets Manager

In December 2020, Digital Archives, Design and Marketing launched LCHM's Born Digital Archive. The archive has been two years in the planning. The necessity for an archive dedicated to collections originating in digital format was part of a long dialogue between myself and former Collections Manager Cheryl Roffe. Planning and designing the archive has been supported by no fewer than three conference attendances and many hours of research and consideration.

Receiving born digital material opens the door for (to be frank) a lot of garbage. Storing digital information is easy. Sorting it is not-so-easy. Making it accessible is difficult.

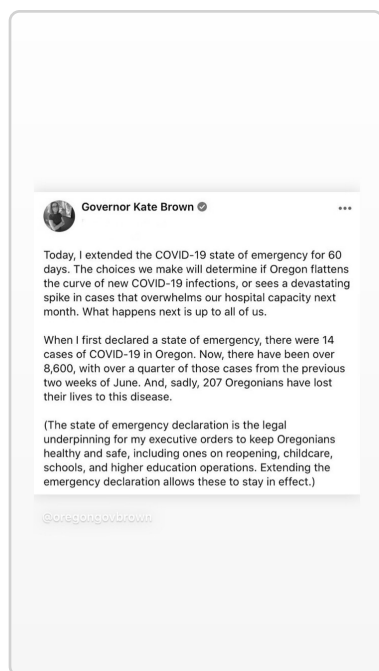
But the keystone of Born Digital Archives is provenance—proof of origin. Since digital materials are immaculate in their duplication, there has to be some benchmark for provenance, an indicator that the donor is indeed offering an original resource...well, a perfect copy of an original resource—you see how sticky it gets. Provenance can be found in the technical metadata of born digital materials.

Launching the Born Digital Archive at LCHM coincides with a charge from Executive Director Bob Hart to pursue

collections during the COVID-19 pandemic with the goal of capturing some essence of this period unfolding. I began collecting for the Born Digital Archive in April, the day Bob made his request to staff.

The first two collections to be accessioned into the archive document the social outcry at the murder of George Floyd, the ongoing Black Lives Matter demonstrations of solidarity, and the summer fires here in Lane County. The collections include social media memes and reposts, and a special collection on 200-year loan from Deadwood-based photographer Kate Harnedy. Harnedy freelances with a specialty in documenting social movements. A collection in her name contains 445 images of protesters in Lane County's coastal area, and photos of fires, fire-fighters and aftermaths of the summer blazes. Harnedy's collection at LCHM is for research purposes only, however reproduction permissions can be obtained from her directly. Visit [katephoto.com](http://katephoto.com) to see more.

If you would like to contribute to the Born Digital Archive, visit [lchm.org/donate-an-artifact/](http://lchm.org/donate-an-artifact/) for an acquisition review form.



View the list at:  
<https://blackbusinesseseugene.github.io/bbe/>



*Editors note:  
This is partially true. While there are some color photographs of the movement, most photographs of the civil rights movement were taken in black and white as color film was expensive, took longer to develop, and was expensive to print. Most photographers were employed by news agencies and needed to get photos to the newspapers (mostly printed in black and white) quickly.*

## From the Museum to the Classroom: Expanding a Nationwide Digital Learning Collaboration

October 8, 2020

*Innovative Educational Platform  
Aims to Bring the Nation's  
Museums into K-12 Classrooms*

**Washington, DC**—The Institute of Museum and Library Services today announced a key investment in Museums for Digital Learning (MDL), a special initiative focused on building the museum field's capacity to connect with teachers and students. This year, with K-12 educators continuing to be impacted by the pandemic, the project has become of significant value as museums pivot to gather and offer more digital teaching and learning resources.

Originally funded as a two-year pilot project through an [FY 2018 National Leadership Grant](#) to the Indianapolis Museum of Art, MDL's goal is to bring together museums of various disciplines, sizes, and geographic regions to contribute to a shared digital platform offering collections-based educational resource kits. The Newfields Lab has been collaboratively leading the project and platform development.

During this second phase of MDL, the project team will enhance and build out the platform and the digital resources by adding 25 resource kits and onboarding 35 additional museum content partners. The platform and resource kits will also be enhanced with new interactive features designed to increase student engagement, such as eBooks, gaming activities, and a "collections hub" with exploratory, self-directed learning activities for students. Additionally, a special section within the MDL website will allow any museum with digitized assets to join MDL and contribute a resource kit or provide a link to their existing online educational resources.



"Today's students need engaging learning resources. Museums are equipped with rich assets that span different topics and time periods, which can provide unparalleled contextual content that make learning relevant and fun," said Paula Gangopadhyay, Deputy Director of Museum Services at IMLS. "From its inception, MDL was designed to be a unique learning platform that could serve as a museum-driven, one-stop shop for K-12 educators. One of the innovative features of MDL is that it also allows museum content partners to collaborate to create thematic resource kits combining digital assets from two different institutions, such as the Field Museum and History Colorado have done. We are very pleased with the success of the pilot project and look forward to the continued growth and use of the platform and resources."

The official site will be launched at the end of 2020 with resource kits from all the partner museums.

Field Museum and History Colorado are the lead content partners on the project, having created nine digital resource kits together for the beta platform. Ten additional museums from across the nation have joined MDL as content partners:



- Lane County History Museum in Eugene, OR
- University of Wyoming Geological Museum in Laramie, WY
- Santa Fe Botanical Garden in Santa Fe, NM
- Harvard Museum of Natural History in Cambridge, MA
- Worcester Art Museum in Worcester, MA
- RISD Museum at Rhode Island School of Design in Providence, RI
- New-York Historical Society, in New York, NY
- Museum of the City of New York in New York, NY
- The Franklin Institute in Philadelphia, PA
- Driskell Center at University of Maryland in College Park, MD

“MDL is a great partnership for us,” said Wendy Derjue-Holzer, Education Director of the Harvard Museum of Natural History. “We are able to focus on our strengths as museum educators, creating thoughtful learning opportunities with museum objects, while the project team focuses on the technical aspects of sharing those digital educational resources. It is a really efficient and effective use of our time. MDL provides the missing connection where teachers can see across many museums at once to pick the materials best suited for their needs.”

Ten educators representing different grade levels, subjects, and geographic regions have been working with the content partners as co-creators of the MDL resources. These teachers have been involved in the pilot project from the start, meeting with the MDL team and sharing their needs, advising the content partners on the resource kit development, and testing the resources virtually with their students.

“This important and critically needed MDL project levels the playing field for students, allowing them access to resources that would be otherwise inaccessible to learning,”

said Michelle Pearson, an 8th Grade Social Studies Educator at Century Middle School in Thornton, CO. “In a time where these resources are needed more than ever, IMLS and their partners on this project have created a tapestry of primary and secondary sources interwoven with activities that connect these artifacts to learning for children and adults of all ages.”

For more information on how to join or contribute to MDL, email the project team at [info@museumsfordigitalllearning.org](mailto:info@museumsfordigitalllearning.org). For more updates on IMLS grants, please visit [imls.gov](http://imls.gov) or subscribe to email updates.

### About the Institute of Museum and Library Services

The Institute of Museum and Library Services is the primary source of federal support for the nation’s libraries and museums. We advance, support, and empower America’s museums, libraries, and related organizations through grantmaking, research, and policy development. Our vision is a nation where museums and libraries work together to transform the lives of individuals and communities. To learn more, visit [www.imls.gov](http://www.imls.gov) and follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

### Programs:

National Leadership Grants for Museums

*Links: [FY 2018 National Leadership Grant](#)*

<https://www.imls.gov/news/power-digital-new-initiative-expand-museums-capacity-share-their-collections-k-12-educators>

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[https://twitter.com/us\\_imls](https://twitter.com/us_imls)

*Image credit: Kelly Sikkema, Unsplash*

<https://unsplash.com/photos/4FwEuaWFxgE>

# Our Stories.

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

## Goodbye, Nick.

Nick Chase, our digital archivist, has moved on. During his time at the museum, he accomplished a great many things. Some of the highlights include:

- Building the Digital Lab
- Creating the Born Digital Archive
- Developing our marketing and advertising strategies
- Initiating contact with the IMLS and boarding the museum into a national beta-test pool with the aim of supporting a broader view of an education mission for LCHM

We wish him well in his future endeavors.

## We are looking for an Exhibits Curator!

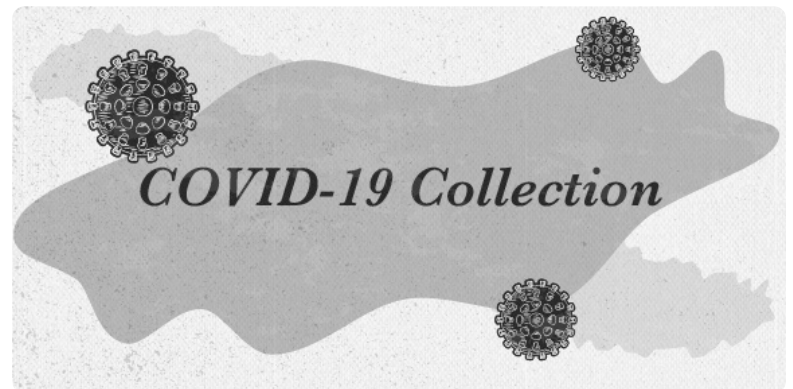
The exhibits curator will produce both onsite and offsite exhibits that uphold the mission of Lane County History Museum and provide interesting and relevant material to the community. The ideal candidate will have at least 2 years of professional curation experience with demonstrated accomplishments in or knowledge of contemporary principles of equity and inclusion in museums. Further, the candidate will have a strong interest in local history and have the ability to work collaboratively with stake-holding community members. Exhibits should utilize both the museum's in-house collections, as well as outside material.

Full information available at [lchm.org/employment/](http://lchm.org/employment/)

## Remote research services are available!

The Museum is glad to continue offering research possibilities to the public throughout building closure.

While the doors are closed, Lane County History Museum has not gone dark. Museum staff are safely at work continuing our commitment to collect, preserve, research, publish and exhibit Our Stories. As things continue to change for our community, we are making Museum resources available to you in new ways that will serve you now, and into the future.



## Donate an Artifact

In response to the historic events and changes to our ways of life in 2020, LCHM is adding new materials to our collection to document how COVID-19 has affected Lane County community members, small businesses, and local organizations. To contribute to this history for future generations, visit [lchm.org/covid-collection/](http://lchm.org/covid-collection/). You can print the form or fill it out online.



*It's never been comfier to be a hero.  
Stay home, save lives.*

### Annual Meeting

We will not be meeting in person. Discussions are underway on the best method of ensuring you are informed and able to influence the future of the museum. Once we have decided and planned the type of meeting we are able to have, we will be sure to let you know.

Help support the telling of

# Our Stories

with a donation!

☐ Donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous

☐ Name as it should appear for recognition

### Want more ways to help?

☐ Please contact me about planned giving

☐ Contact me about setting up an automatic monthly donation

☐ My company offers a matching gift program

☐ Send me information on including a legacy gift in my estate plan

**Or tell a friend to become a member!**

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EXPIRATION DATE

SIGNATURE

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:  
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P.O. Box 5407,  
Eugene, OR 97405-3819

Gift online at [lchm.org/donate](http://lchm.org/donate)  
Questions? Call (541)682-4242 or  
email [volunteers@lchm.org](mailto:volunteers@lchm.org)



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# the ARTIFACT

EXHIBITS, EVENTS, AND HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

WINTER 2021 NO. 238

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LCHM.ORG