



the ARTIFACT

LANE
COUNTY
HISTORY
MUSEUM

AUTUMN 2021
NO. 241

LOOKING FORWARD • DIRECTORS CORNER
CLERKS BUILDING ROOF • LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT • ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT
THANKS TO OUR DONORS • PUBLICATION PLANS

LANE COUNTY HISTORY MUSEUM

740 West 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR

MAILING

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

CALL US

Office (541) 682-4242

ADMISSION

Adults \$5
Seniors (60+) \$3
Youth (15-17) \$1
Kids (14 & under) FREE
Members FREE

LCHM.ORG

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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*

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THE ARTIFACT IS PRODUCED BY:

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

Front cover: GN265. Aerial view of 5th avenue. c. 1965

LOOKING FORWARD

OCTOBER

29-31

Radio Redux *Spooktacular*

Hult Center,
7:00 PM, Friday, Oct 29;
1:30 PM, Sat-Sun, Oct 30-31

Pre-Program Illustrated Lecture by Pat Lucanio

Hult Center,
6:00 PM, Friday, Oct 29;
12:30 PM, Sat-Sun, Oct 30-31

NOVEMBER

8

History Pub: Dr. Stacey Smith

"Black Oregon and California Migration to British Columbia - 1850s and 1860s"

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Zoom

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

DECEMBER

13

History Pub: TBA

7:00 - 8:30 PM

Zoom

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

17-19

Radio Redux *Holiday Special*

Hult Center
7:00 PM, Friday, Dec 17;
1:30 PM, Sat-Sun, Dec 18-19

Pre-Program Illustrated Lecture by Pat Lucanio

Hult Center
6:00 PM, Friday, Dec 17;
12:30 PM, Sat-Sun, Dec 18-19

DIRECTOR'S CORNER

by Bob Hart, Executive Director

In our last issue I alerted members that a serious proposal had been floated to LCHM concerning a possible relocation to the Oregon Electric Station. This proposal by former mayor and 5th St. Market developer Brian Obie and his partners has been communicated to Lane County officialdom and is currently being evaluated.

The proposal in a nutshell involves a land swap. Due diligence on the part of the county requires real estate appraisals and a facility assessment, all currently in progress, completed, or scheduled. The proposal's merits will then be weighed against any downsides.

What's in it for the county?

1. Relocation of the county's history museum operations from its Fairgrounds location to a highly visible downtown location close to the cultural heart of the community. Such a relocation allows the museum to perhaps jumpstart further cultural development around the Hult Center
2. The museum's relocation to the OES and its initial operational conversion will be handled by the nonprofit LCHS and will not require county financial resources
3. It begins the process of closing out the museum's Fairgrounds lease and freeing the Fairgrounds to plan accordingly
4. 12,000-14,000 sq. ft. of developable property exists behind the historic building

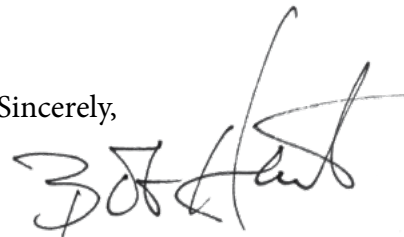
What's in it for the museum?

1. A rebranding for the museum - this reflects a commitment to inclusivity and recognition of those communities previously neglected (LCHM was established with a pioneer focus)
2. Relocation at a National Register of Historic Places intercity electric train station (1914) on one of the most exceptional and historically preserved corners in Eugene – such buildings are exceedingly rare in our county seat and quite fitting for a historical museum venue
3. A significant increase in visibility in a location that offers both foot traffic and the potential for significant rental income

Attractive as this proposal may appear, this is not a done deal and things could still go south. But you, our members, can help this proposal move forward. OES is located in Commissioner Laurie Trieger's district. And Commissioner Pat Farr has long been an advocate for museums. If you would like to see a rejuvenated LCHM downtown in the old OES, please contact your county commissioner and tell them so.

Thanks for your support.

Sincerely,



Bob Hart

REROOFING A GEM

by Bob Hart, Executive Director

The county's oldest standing building dates to the time the town's founder, Eugene Skinner, was the county clerk (1853). The building sits today next to the Lane County History Museum (1951/59) at the Fairgrounds. Its curious past includes only a short time in public service (it was not sited on the finalized public square), use as a private home and office, relocation at least twice, last offsite use by the Salvation Army, and donation to the Lane County Historical Society more than 100 years after it was constructed.

The museum received timely assistance from the Kinsman Foundation in 2020 in order to create a preservation plan for the structure. Preservation consultant Liz Carter produced a 90 page document which expands on the 1975 National Register of Historic Places nomination information, notes previous LCHS efforts to maintain the structure, and makes recommendations for future use, treatment, research, and documentation.

One of the most obvious recommendations was roof repair before the rainy season began this fall. The building was last reroofed in 2004, so the roofing job has lasted 17 years.

Wooden shingle roofers are hard to come by these days and eventually All-State Contractors was selected because of the strength of its word of mouth recommendations. Then patience was necessary awaiting the delivery of Canadian shingles!

Master carpenter and museum supporter Marv Glover had already tarped the building because of impending rain when, quite literally the day before the rain began, the shingle order arrived. The tarping held (Go, Marv!) and during the following week the building was expertly reroofed by the All-State Contractors roofing crew. LCHM is pleased at the results and the building is now again fully protected against our normally rainy fall and winter weather.

Kudos to the Kinsman Foundation for their assistance with a preservation plan: Liz Carter for the plan, Marv Glover for his performance as an LCHM "Minuteman," and Eddice, Ricky, and Dominic, the All-State Contractors roofing crew for a fine and finished historic preservation job.



LIBRARY HIGHLIGHT

by Allison Fischer-Olson, Archivist and Research Librarian

MS 789 Susan DeTroy Manuscript Collection

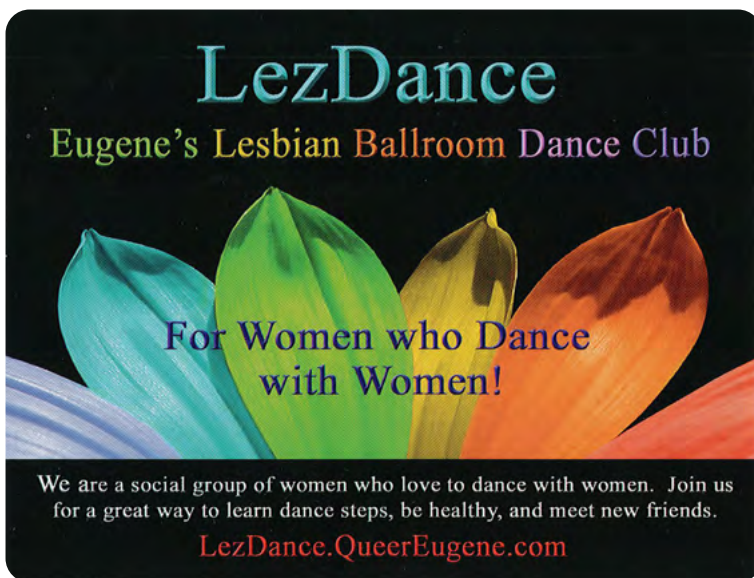
Susan Detroy is a current Eugene resident and longtime advocate of the LGBTQIA community and women's rights in Oregon. This collection includes posters, ads, and a magazine all with a common theme of promoting the rights of women and the LGBTQIA community. The collection also includes numerous documents of a former local non-profit organization known as Lez Dance. Detroy was a member and president of this club. Parts of this collection date back to the late 80's, 90's, and early 2000's.

This collection was recently cataloged by LCHM volunteer, Ben Randol. Thanks Ben!

LCHM would love to learn more about Lez Dance. Have photos? Did you participate in classes? Please get in touch with us if you have anything to contribute!

Photos:

A promotional card for Lez Dance activities.



“Vote No on 9” stickers. Oregon Ballot Measure 9, a 1992 state-wide ballot measure would have added a clause to the Oregon Constitution stating that Oregon governments were forbidden from promoting or facilitating homosexuality. The ballot measure failed by a vote of 638,527 for to 828,290 against.



ARTIFACT HIGHLIGHT

by Tara Puyat, Collections Manager

Hats have historically played an important and integral part in fashion and, as such, are often seen in museum collections. LCHM's collection is no different, having a couple of hundred hats in its Artifact Collection. Among these, are two from different periods in time that are currently on exhibit as part of "Millinery in Lane County".

The older of these hats (top right) dates from around 1898 and is believed to be handmade by Clara Dell Walton, who ran a hat shop on the east side of Willamette Street in the 1890s. Named "The Bandbox", this shop was owned and managed by Clara and her sister Ada Osie Walton. Clara was the head milliner and made most of the shop's orders. The hat is in a draped style, made with emerald green crushed velvet and red brocade, ornamented with ivory lace and green feathers. It was possibly made to match a Christmas ensemble.



The second hat (bottom right) is newer, from circa 1963 and is an example of a mass produced hat, with an interior label that reads "Noreen / FASHIONS". By this time, department stores had gotten strong footing and people favored ready to wear over more expensive custom hats. Covered in a spring green velveteen, it is in a bowler style extensively trimmed in green, iridescent parrot and peacock feathers that lie flat against the crown. The inner side of the crown is lined with lace.



A side by side comparison of these two hats illustrates how fashion tastes have changed over time. Currently, hats are not considered an essential part of most ensembles, but rather an optional accessory. In spite of this, hats are still a form of self-expression in a continued story that connects us to our past.

Artifacts featured:

1951.1853

2006.001.109



RACING TO CHANGE

UPCOMING EXHIBIT

We are preparing to host the exhibit *Racing to Change: Oregon's Civil Rights Years*. We are excited to be working with the Oregon Black Pioneers to add new content, objects and archival material to their remarkable exhibit.

Stay tuned for the opening date!

Our Stories.



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

Support received January 1, 2021 – June 30, 2021

The financial support from our donors is essential to providing services and programs our community needs. Thank you for your generous support!

\$5,000+

Heritage Research Associates

\$4,999-\$2,000

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\$1,999-\$1,000

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 Lance Winger
 Herbert P. Wisner

Projects & Programs that Received Grant Funding
 (1/2021-6/2021)

Public History, Art & Monuments: A Tool for Community Assessment (Phase 1)
 Three Rivers Foundation - \$1,200
 Lane County Cultural Coalition - \$1,900



UPCOMING CHANGES TO OUR PUBLICATIONS

by Marin Aurand, Historian, and Allison Fischer-Olson, Archivist and Research Librarian

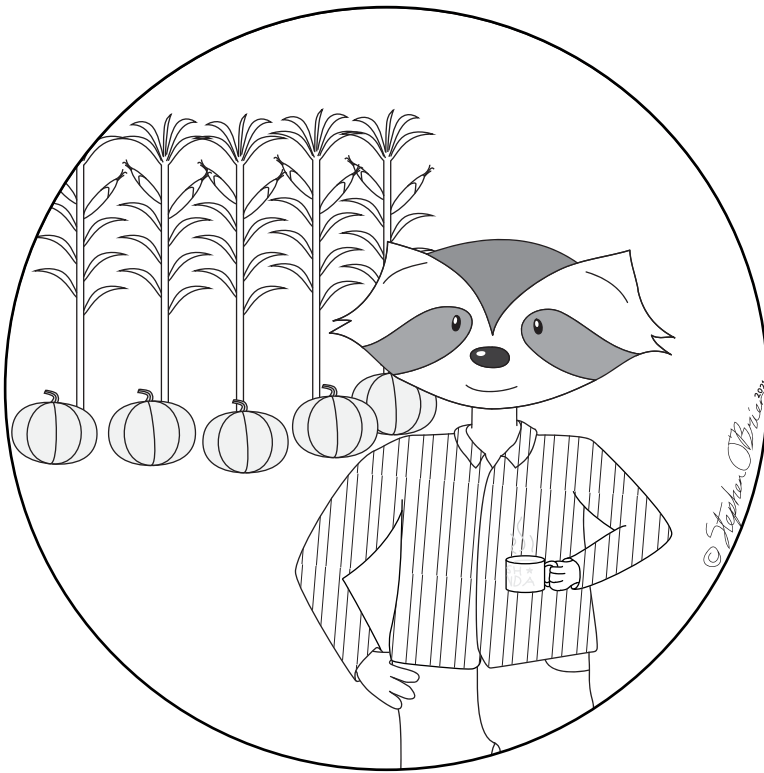
As members of Lane County Historical Society know, the organization put the Lane County Historian on hiatus upon the retirement of its last editor, Dorothy Velasco, who served from 2001 to 2019. Members were promised an anthology in the interim, which is on track to be printed in early 2022. Museum staff have taken this pause as an opportunity to look closely at our main publication for how it has changed over time and what we envision for it in the future. This falls in line with LCHM's ongoing Diversity, Equity, Accessibility and Inclusion institutional self-assessment, as we think about how this publication can be a lasting and valuable resource for all of our community and stakeholders.

This year, LCHM's Historian, Marin Aurand, did an assessment of the Lane County Historian from its beginnings in 1956 through its last issue in 2019. Having read every single article, Aurand has highlighted some of our organization's best work, as well as flagged articles that we no longer stand behind and will require responses using best practices in the field of history today.

Here are some specific findings that shed light on the publication over the years:

- Of about 750 total articles, 150 are family histories or biographies of individuals
- 87 articles have "Eugene" in the title
- 53 articles have "pioneer" in the title
- The first non-racist depiction of anyone of Asian descent occurs in 1999
- The first article that addresses Black experience in Lane County occurs in 2001
- There are no articles related to the LGBTQIA community
- 60 articles contain overtly racist or sexist language

These considerations are the basis for the content in the upcoming anthology as we close this chapter in our publications. The Lane County Historian is the only publication to have focused solely on the history of Lane County, and featured the work of decades of genealogists and amateur historians. LCHM intends to continue with the successes of this long-running publication, while confronting the shortcomings. A re-imagined annual publication with increased collaboration with other Lane County organizations and community stakeholders will take the place of the Lane County Historian beginning in 2023. The Artifact Newsletter is being held to the same high standards. In an effort to produce more thoughtful and engaging content, it will be reduced to two issues per year.



"This harvest truly is some pun'kins"

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/. You can print the form or fill it out online.

Share your Story

Do you have a story to share? As history unfolds around us, we are asking for community submissions to our digital archive. Eye-witness accounts, personal stories and insights will help inform future interpretation of our local story. Visit lchm.org/share-your-story/ to submit.

Help support the telling of

Our Stories

with a donation!

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- ☐ Put this donation in the scholarship fund
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Want more ways to help?

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Or tell a friend to become a member!

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Questions? Call (541) 682-4242 or
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the ARTIFACT

EXHIBITS, EVENTS, AND HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS

AUTUMN 2021 NO. 241

The Artifact is produced quarterly and distributed to members of the Lane County History Museum

LCHM.ORG