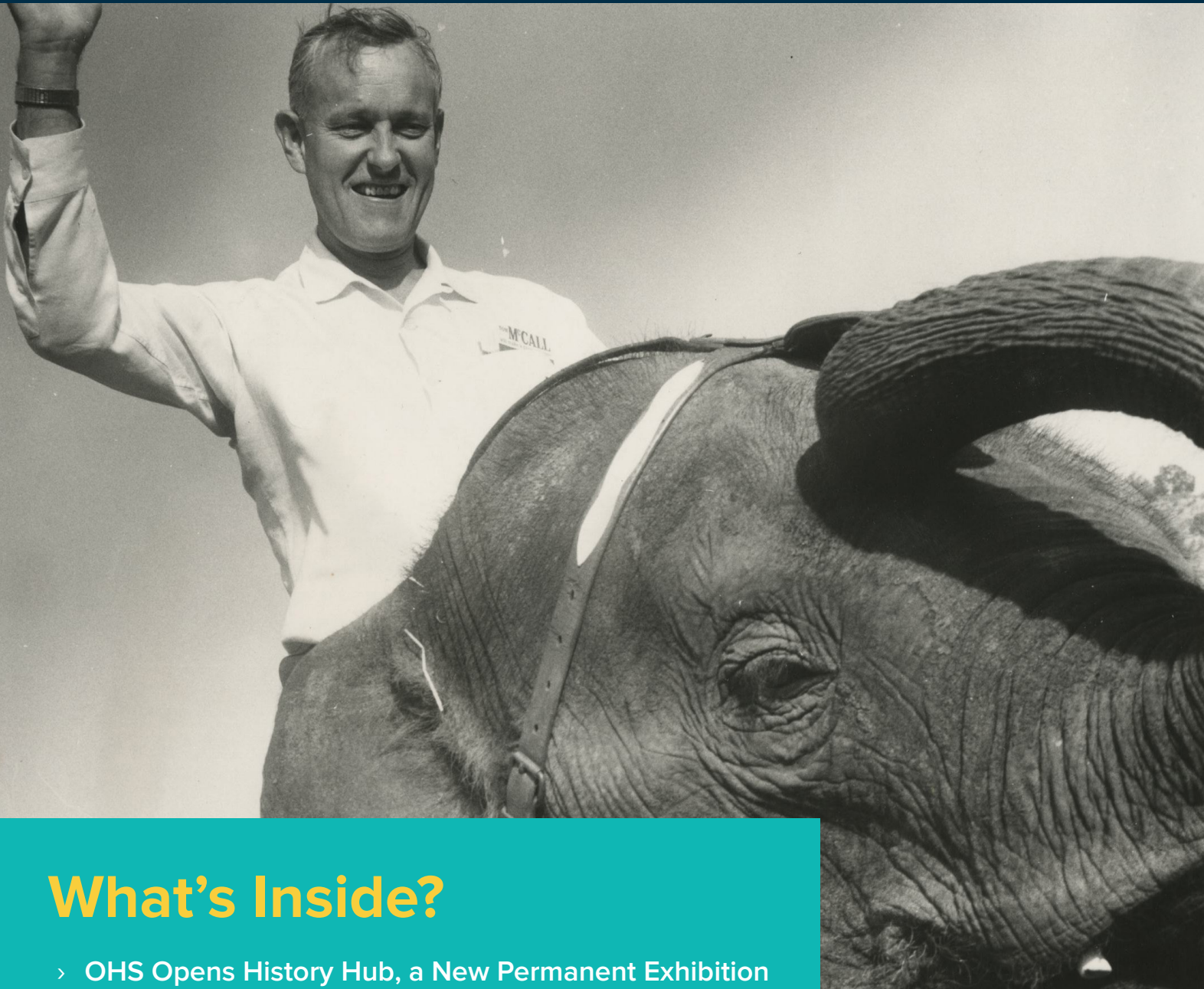


The Historian

Member newsletter for the Oregon Historical Society



What's Inside?

- › OHS Opens History Hub, a New Permanent Exhibition for Youth and Families
- › Interview with Portland Hip-Hop Documentary Filmmaker Michael T. Agnew
- › Tom McCall Digital Exhibit Featured on the Oregon History Project

Winter 2016



THE OREGON
HISTORICAL
SOCIETY
FOUNDED 1898

About OHS

For more than a century, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's collective memory, preserving a vast collection of artifacts, photographs, maps, manuscript materials, books, films, and oral histories.

Our research library, museum, digital platforms, educational programming, and historical journal make Oregon's history open and accessible to all.

We exist because history is powerful, and because a history as deep and as rich as Oregon's cannot be contained within a single story or point of view.

Visit the Museum & Research Library

Museum & Store

Mon–Sat 10am–5pm

Sun 12pm–5pm

Research Library

Tue 1pm–5pm

Wed–Sat 10am–5pm



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1200 SW Park Ave.
Portland, OR 97205
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www.ohs.org

Dear OHS Members & Supporters,

As the Oregon Historical Society counts our blessings this year, chief among them is the continued support of our members. Your loyalty and generosity helped to ensure another successful year of compelling exhibits, fascinating programs, and thought-provoking articles in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly*.

One stand out moment from 2016 was February's Dragon Dance and Parade. Over one thousand people gathered in Chinatown to watch the festivities, then followed the parade through downtown Portland to end at the Oregon Historical Society where the dancing continued on our Plaza. This massive community event kicked off Chinese New Year and helped drive visitors to our two spring exhibits on local and national Chinese American history.

The momentum continued throughout spring with capacity crowds at each of our Mark O. Hatfield Distinguished Historians Forum lectures. Our exhibits team was kept busy with the opening of two original exhibitions in July and August, the first featuring priceless engravings of America's founding documents. In the second, *Comic City, USA*, visitors of all ages have been dressing up as superheroes and creating their very own comic book characters. OHS also hosted baseball fans from across the country for the first-ever public display of the original written rules of America's game, dubbed the "Magna Carta of Baseball."

With all of these exciting moments throughout the year, the most important and gratifying highlight of 2016 was the overwhelming vote by the citizens of Multnomah County to renew our levy. Over 71% of voters said "YES" to Oregon history, and we are so thankful for the funding that will continue to fuel our community programs, exhibitions, research library, educational programs, and scholarship.

Many thanks to all of you for your important support!

Best regards,

Kerry Tymchuk
Executive Director

Mark O. Hatfield Distinguished Historians Forum

Since 1998, the Oregon Historical Society has presented this annual lecture series, which brings together the nation's top historians and authors for thought-provoking evenings of history. Each spring, award-winning scholars come to Portland to share broad perspectives on the many facets of United States history.



Cokie Roberts
February 7, 2017

Capital Dames: The Civil War and the Women of Washington, 1848–1868



H.W. Brands
March 14, 2017

The General vs. the President: MacArthur and Truman on the Brink of Nuclear War



T.J. Stiles
April 4, 2017

Custer's Trials: A Life on the Frontier of a New America



Jeff Greenfield
May 2, 2017

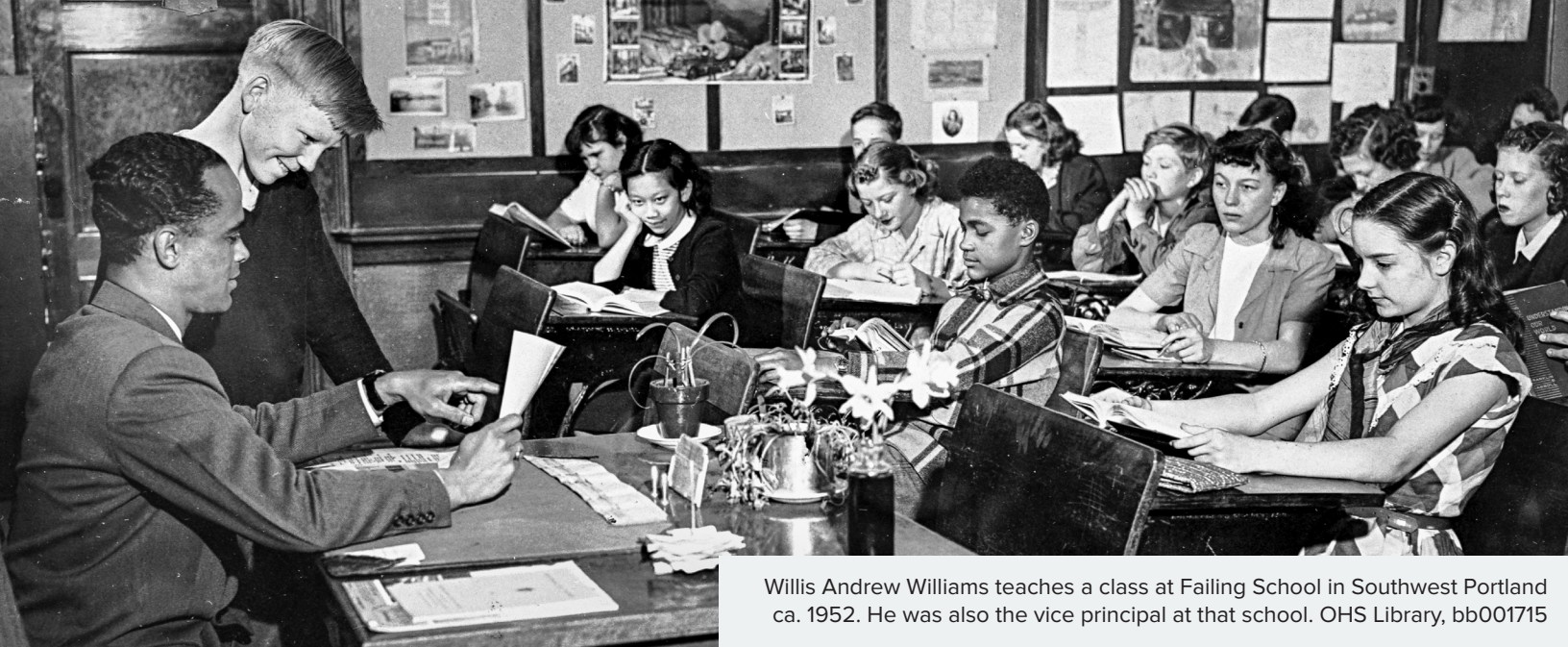
If Kennedy Lived: The First and Second Terms of President John F. Kennedy

Series tickets start at \$72 and are on sale now through BrownPaperTickets.com. **Patron & reserved level tickets are sold out, and fewer than 50 general admission series tickets are available!** All lectures begin at 7pm at the First Congregational Church in downtown Portland. Details at www.ohs.org

Attention OHS Members

Do you belong to a group that enjoys outside speakers? We can help! OHS has a group of well-educated volunteers who have given over 130 speeches on Oregon history to community groups throughout the region. They give speeches varying from thirty minutes to an hour or more, depending on your needs. And best of all, they do so free of charge!

To set up a speaker, please email Scott Calhoun at OHSpeaker@gmx.com and provide basic information such as the name of your group, contact information, desirable dates/times, and location. Spread the word and bring some Oregon history to your next meeting or get together!



Willis Andrew Williams teaches a class at Failing School in Southwest Portland ca. 1952. He was also the vice principal at that school. OHS Library, bb001715

History Hub

A New Permanent Exhibition for Youth and Families

On November 1, the Oregon Historical Society opened *History Hub*, a new permanent exhibition where youth, students, and families can explore the topic of diversity through fun, hands-on interactives, objects, and pictures. Developed in partnership with an advisory committee of students, teachers, cultural organizations, and museums, *History Hub* tells the stories of people who live in Oregon, today and in the past. The content of *History Hub* spans grades K–12 with a focus on 4th–8th grades.

“With many thousands of school children visiting the Oregon Historical Society each year, it is fitting to have an explorative history space dedicated to Oregon’s youth,” said OHS Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk. “While this exhibit is geared towards students, visitors of all ages will learn important lessons about the Oregon of yesterday and today, and how each of us can go forth and be good stewards and citizens of this great state.”



Hal Webber's Juvenile Wranglers Band. OHS Library, bb014537



Valerie Hong (left) and her sister Natalie, from Hong Kong, become American citizens. OHS Library, bb014372

History Hub is a learning space for tomorrow's leaders. Students explore how people have come to Oregon and how they think about their own ancestors and their family's path to becoming Oregonians. Young people learn about the experiences of an Oregon Trail pioneer, a Chinese miner, a Pullman porter, and many others.

With puzzles, touch screen activities, and board games, *History Hub* asks students to consider questions like "Who is an Oregonian?," "How has discrimination and segregation affected people who live in Oregon?," and "How can you make Oregon a great place for everyone?" While the topic of diversity is central to *History Hub*, the content will change every three years, and OHS will partner with cultural organizations and museums across Oregon to share their stories in *History Hub*. From 2016 to 2019 our partners for *History Hub* are the Oregon Black Pioneers, Portland Public Schools Indian Education Program, and the Southern Oregon Historical Society.

"I started working on *History Hub* on my second day at the Oregon Historical Society, and two years later the exhibit that sits before us today exceeds all of my expectations of what this space could be for Oregon students," said OHS Museum Director Helen B Louise. "*History Hub* is a truly collaborative undertaking and would not have been possible without our partner organizations and the students and educators who supported this creative process."



ALL HANDS ON DECK!



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Community Grants Program

LEND A HAND!



- Juliet Ashby Hillman Foundation
- Jamieson & Tiffany Grabenhorst
- Michael & Elizabeth McCaslin
- Brian & Karen Obie
- Ronald E. & Ivy L. Timpe

Thank you to these and the many other individual and corporate sponsors whose support has made this exhibition possible!

Lifting As We Climb

(Edited) Interview with Michael T. Agnew, producer of *Lifting As We Climb*, a documentary of Portland Hip Hop, premiering Friday, February 10 at OHS.

When did you first become a fan of hip hop and what about the genre do you love?

I had my own apartment in high school, so I would throw house parties to pay my rent. I really developed a love for the music and culture of hip hop at that time, and I determined that the entertainment business would be my future.

Tell us some about your professional work with the hip hop community.

I was stationed in Okinawa, Japan, and I befriended a neighborhood young man by the name of Yoshi. His father had a tavern, or bar, and Yoshi and I would throw hip hop shows there. After the military, I moved to Portland and wanted to work in show-business. The first job was working as a security bouncer at a local bar called Cleo's, on Williams by Emanuel Hospital. Everyone who was anyone in the hip hop game came through Cleo's.

David Leikin's company would hire hip hop promoters like Cool Nutz, David Parks, and myself to help with the street promotions. Leikin encouraged me to go to university, and I went to Portland State University and received a degree in Speech Communications. I continued to produce and promote live events all across the country until 2006.

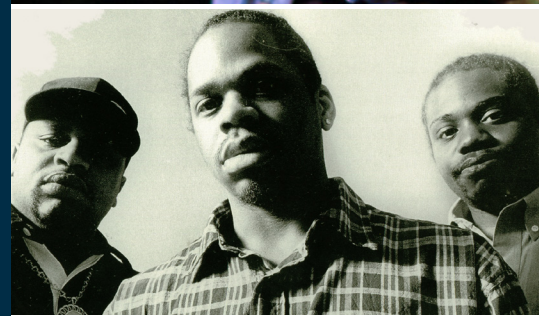
Why did you make this film?

This film is based on a college term paper. It made a great impact on the class. While studying to write the article, I went to various libraries around Portland and could not find much about Portland hip hop. I want people to be informed of the hard work, dedication, and sacrifice that many individuals put into Portland hip hop culture. When they were break dancing and rapping in New York in 1977, so was Portland.

Why do you want to host the premier at OHS?

I made this film for the record, and OHS is where historic records for the state of Oregon are stored.

Lifting As We Climb is a hip hop documentary that examines the history and social impact of Portland Hip Hop through archival footage and commentary from the industry's leading emcees, dee jays, producers, and executives. Nationally renowned DJ "Chillest Illest" provides narration; the film was written, directed, and produced by Michael T. Agnew. Photos from top: Yung Mil, GOTM, Mikey Vegaz, Five Fingers of Unk



Tom McCall Digital Exhibit

New from the Research Library's Oregon History Project



From Left: Org Lot 1335; McCall meeting with the Willamette Oregon Council of the Blind, Org Lot 353; McCall giving a speech, Org Lot 353; all photos courtesy the OHS Library

“In fact we’ve bitten the bullet so often, it’s a wonder we haven’t contracted lead poisoning.”

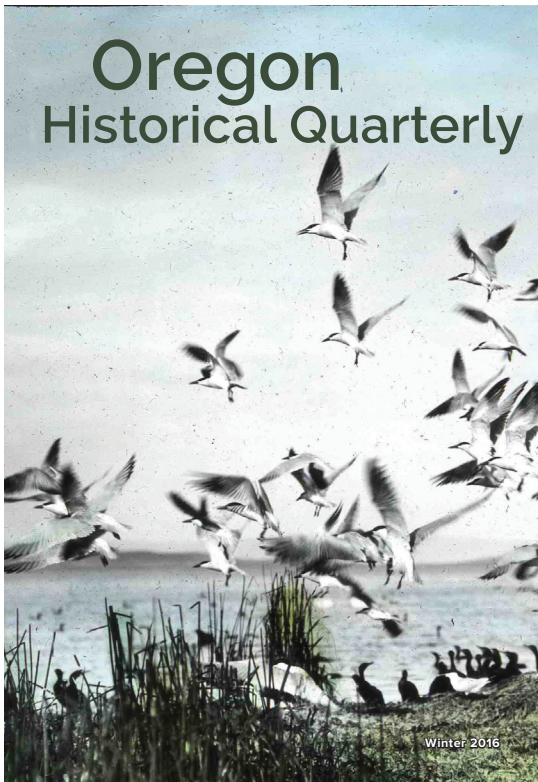
Oregonians are familiar with Tom McCall’s dry sense of humor, and his audience predictably laughed when he delivered this line in his Farewell Speech to Portland City Club members in December 1974 as he neared the end of his tenure as governor. The quip and the laughter have been preserved on a scratchy recording in the Oregon Historical Society Research Library. OHS staff digitized the recording and annotated it for the Oregon History Project, one of the Society’s digital history websites. The recording is featured in the library’s online exhibit *A Symbol of Home: The Environmental and Political Legacy of Tom McCall in Oregon*, funded in part by the Oregon Community Foundation. The digital exhibit draws on the Thomas Lawson McCall manuscript collection (Mss 625), which is available to researchers.

The City Club Farewell Speech is just one of hundreds of documents, maps, letters, photographs, objects, and other historical material in the OHS archives that have been digitized and annotated for the online Oregon History Project as part of the Society’s digital outreach efforts. The site—oregonhistoryproject.org—provides access to some of OHS’s most remarkable holdings, including early missionary Jason Lee’s diary, Oregon Superintendent of Indian Affairs Joel Palmer’s hand-drawn map of the Wasco (Warm Springs) Reservation, and one of Lily White’s incredible photographs of the Columbia Gorge.

McCall’s forty-year-old speech outlining his “Blueprint for Oregon” is a cautionary message for future state leaders, and listening to it now is a reminder of how invested the governor was in Oregon and his role in its public institutions. He ends the speech with some regret—a disappointment you can hear as his voice slows and the room quiets.

“Well, I could moan on and on,” he concluded, “but I’d say that the thing I regret most perhaps was that I ought to stay at my post...because experienced governors [are] the greatest balancer of the inequity that is developed in the federal system....However, as the last curtain falls on my elective career, I probably regret I didn’t run for the Senate maybe in 1972. We have the action office, it’s just that I hate to find myself at 61 with an enthusiastic following, relegated to the political bone yard.” **[Listen to the whole speech on the Oregon History Project.](#)**

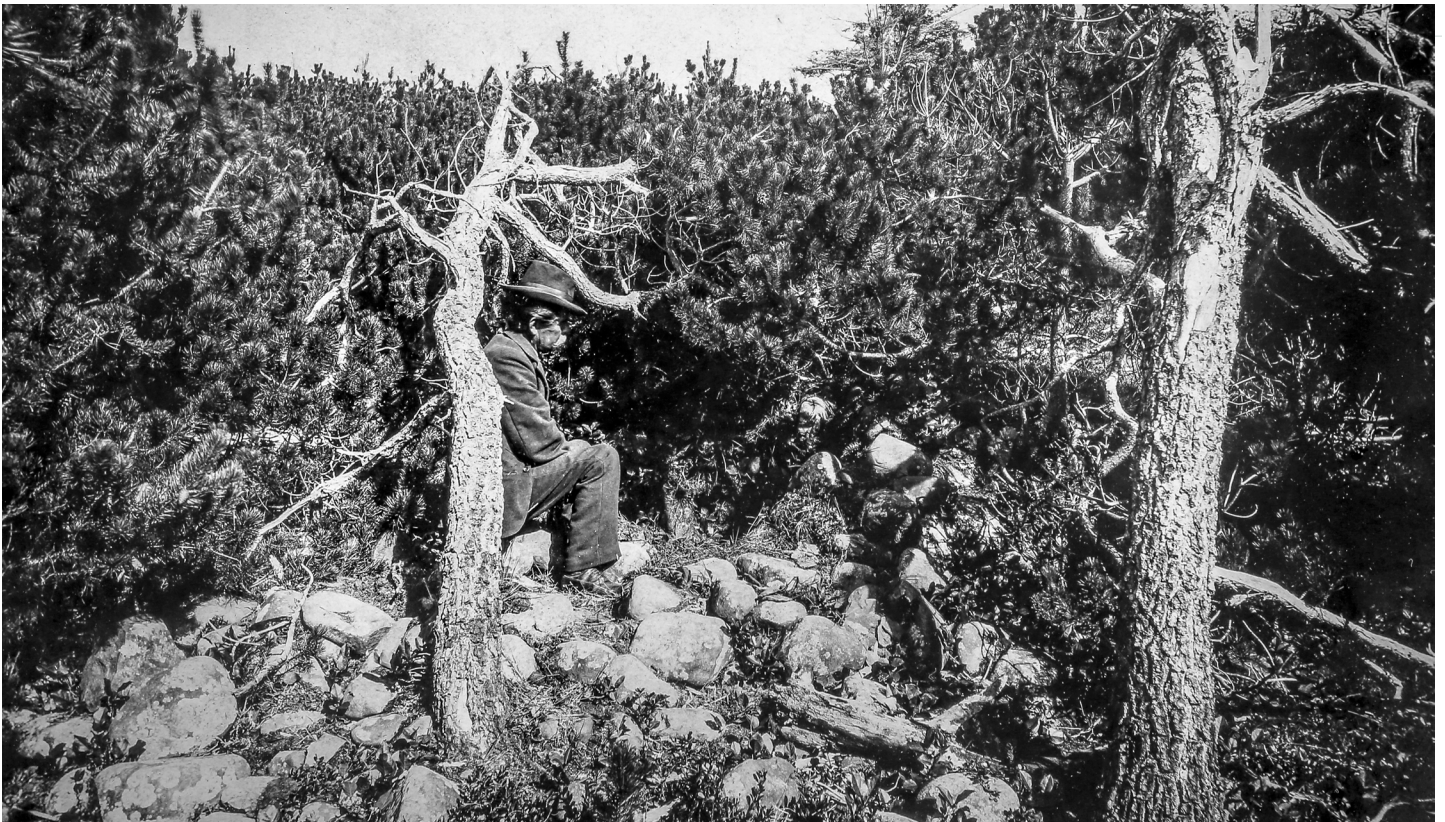
Oregon Historical Quarterly



Winter 2016

Our final issue of volume 117 covers a wide variety of topics, making it the perfect read during winter break! Oregon's territorial and early state laws included restrictions on African American sailors that were strikingly similar to those enacted in the Southeast Atlantic slave states during the same period. After being pushed out of their traditional homeland by Fort Stevens, many Clatsop people created transition communities in today's Seaside, where they helped shape the new economy and maintain cultural continuity by incorporating traditional basketry and harvesting skills.

The true history of public lands in southeastern Oregon is longer and more complex than was depicted by protesters at the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. Frederick Homer Balch was among the most important early Oregon writers, although his young death prevented him from ever settling firmly on one genre. The photo collections at the Oregon Historical Society have grown up with photography itself, making them the perfect subject for ruminations by former Library Director Geoff Wexler.



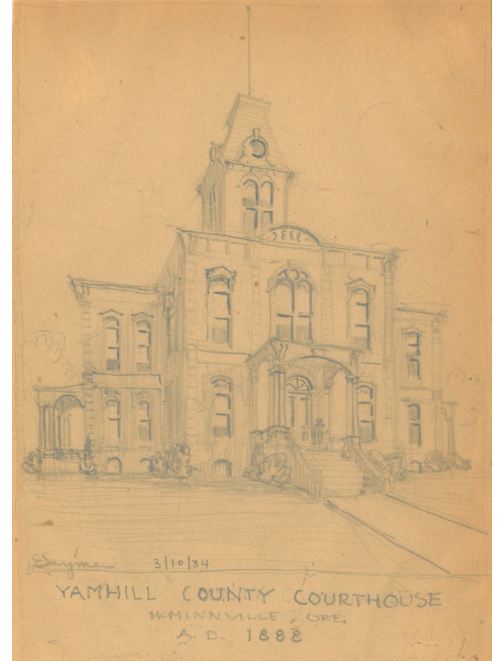
Silas Smith is pictured here in 1900 in Seaside, Oregon, at the cairn used by the Lewis and Clark Expedition for salt-making. As part of an Oregon Historical Society investigation, Smith interviewed Jennie Michel (Tsin-is-tum), who identified the location of the cairn based on her mother's recollections. A commemorative park based on her account occupies the site today.

Recent Library Acquisition

Earl Layman Architectural Sketches

Thanks to the generosity of Pastor Dennis Anderson of St. James Lutheran Church, the Oregon Historical Society has just acquired a group of sketches by architectural historian Earl Layman (1916–2001), a native of Portland who served as Seattle’s historic preservation officer. Layman was a talented artist with training in architecture. Educated at the University of Oregon and at the Ecole des Beaux Arts in Fontainebleau, France, he taught architectural history at Auburn University and Kansas State University before moving to Seattle. There he served as the city’s historic preservation officer from 1975 to 1982, helping to save many important buildings from demolition.

He retired to Neskowin, Oregon, where he died in 2001 at the age of 85. He was a close friend of Pastor Anderson, who formerly served as a curator at the University of Washington library and collected many of Layman’s art works. The sketches depict historic buildings and other scenes in Oregon, including Portland’s First Congregational Church prior to the removal of two of its towers, the Oregon State Capitol before it was destroyed by fire in 1935, and the old Yamhill County Courthouse (pictured right).



Our Super Exhibits Team

The OHS exhibition production team is committed to re-purposing as much material as possible when updating our exhibit galleries. Rather than send these materials to landfills, our stellar staff donates old and unwanted art supplies to Scrap, unneeded building materials to the ReBuilding Center, obsolete AV technology to Free Geeks, and old paint to the nearest Metro drop-off for recycling. Museum Director Helen B Louise notes a few ways that our exhibit supplies have been re-purposed: “Sean at Scrap informed me that the big half sphere foam pieces for our WWII Japanese balloon bombs were used as props in an elementary school play, and Tom at the ReBuilding Center is setting aside our recent donation to help build a local homeless shelter!



Exhibit Preparation Specialist Beckey Chapman, pictured left, celebrates a successful installation of our *Comic City, USA* exhibit by testing out the props in the popular photo op.

Memorial & Tribute Gifts

Each year, the Oregon Historical Society receives gifts in honor of individuals. Whether it is in memory of a loved one or in honor of a special accomplishment, these tribute gifts keep Oregon's history accessible to all. Gifts listed below are those received between June 3 to November 21, 2016.

Gifts in Honor:

In honor of Barney Benton, Keeper of History
Norman and Marie Wachlin

In honor of Mr. Bill Dickey
Mr. Scott Ballo
Mr. Casey M. Lucas

In honor of Pete Mark
Leslie B. Wheeler & Family

In honor of Jim Schepke
Oregon City Public Library

Gifts in Memory:

In memory of Burt Brown Barker
Mrs. Helen Herman

In memory of Jack Beatty
Paul and Alice Meyer

In memory of Mr. Brian Booth
The Wendy Foundation

In memory of Dr. Robert "Bob" Cook
Ms. Jenny Bilfield and Mr. Joel Friedman
Mr. William S. Elliott
Ms. Inez Greenfield
Harry and Flo Merlo
Mrs. Antoinette Hatfield
Mr. and Mrs. Eric and Ronna Hoffman
Mr. and Mrs. Russell and Ann Humberston
Mr. John Robinson
Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Dottie Schonely
Ms. Patricia Stange
Ms. Dodie Tombleson
Ms. Ann Whiting

In memory of Dodie Gannett
Ms. Kathleen Posey

In memory of Senator Mark O. Hatfield and in honor of Mrs. Antoinette Hatfield
Pioneer Trust Bank

In memory of Alfred B. Herman
Mrs. Helen Herman

In memory of Michael Huston
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Nancy Nevin

In memory of Ms. Jeanette Morrison Schinder
Lori and Wayne Kuechler

In memory of Barbara B. Sprouse
Mrs. Helen Herman

In memory of Mr. Tom Vaughan
Mrs. Arlene Schnitzer

In memory of Mrs. Gertrude Webb
The Boeing Company Foundation





The 2016 History Makers Dinner honored photojournalist David Hume Kennerly, Nike founder Phil Knight, marine ecologist Dr. Jane Lubchenco, and Hoffman Construction. Over 250 people gathered at Montgomery Park, making history by raising an unprecedented \$335,000 to support OHS!



The OHS ambassador board, The Cabinet, hosted its second annual Oregon through the Decades event on October 28. Over 100 young history lovers filled the event, which featured visits from Ironman and Hellboy, a performance by Robot Uprise, and guided exhibit tours of *Comic City, USA*. In addition to attracting many new friends to OHS, The Cabinet surpassed their revenue from 2015, raising nearly \$10,000 in support of our core programs!



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A Road Suited to the Times

In celebration of the 100 year anniversary of the construction of the Columbia River Highway, the Oregon Historical Society co-produced a public program with Doug Kenck-Crispin that used original hand colored slides. The roadway—like the slides themselves—was a modern marvel that soon found itself antiquated. A celebration of the automobile and expanding urban boundaries, the roadway was marked by expansive views and up-to-date construction practices that rivaled the greatest European highways of the time. Unfortunately, as the popularity of the auto soared in Oregon, the roadway was soon unable to handle the increased traffic; within ten years the two lane road was considered out of date. The program, “A Road Suited to the Times,” was shown at the Hollywood Theatre, Maryhill Museum, Portland Garden Club, Deschutes County Historical Society, and McMenamins Edgefield and is available for additional screenings in 2017.