



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Fall/Winter Newsletter

November 2015

Corps of Engineers, stakeholders discuss locks

By Sandy Carter

After close to two years of federally mandated discussions between the Portland District Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the many stakeholders who support the reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks, an October 12 meeting at USACE offices offered hope of a signed Memorandum of Agreement by the end of the year. The agreement would help counteract the "adverse" effects on navigation caused by the unexpected December 2011 closure of the 1873 canal and locks but would not repair and reopen the canal, which provides the only water-based way around the 45-foot Willamette Falls.

The meeting, latest in a series of consultations required of the USACE by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, moved the Corps and Locks' advocates a significant step closer to final approval of a draft MOA.

Attending were representatives of the State Historic Preservation Office, METRO, Clackamas County, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, the Clackamas County Historical Society, Hooley & Naito (consulting for NTHP), Portland General Electric, the City of Wilsonville, the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, the One Willamette River Coalition, and Corps management. Those organizations make up just a slice of the many groups and local governments up and down the Willamette Valley that have joined forces to call for putting the canal and locks back into public service.



Downstream entrance to Willamette Falls Locks, 2006. (Photo by EncMstr, courtesy of Wikimedia)

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County also talks locks with corps

Clackamas County Commissioner Tootie Smith and Portland General Electric's Annette Mattson are leading a Clackamas County Willamette Falls Locks Working Group that has opened conversations with the Army Corps of Engineers about a potential future transfer of the facility out of federal control. The efforts of the county working group are expected to fold into and support the work of a new Legislative Task Force on Willamette Locks, established in the recent Oregon legislative session through Senate Bill 131. Members of that task force, which will be staffed by Oregon Solutions, are still being appointed. The task force's first meeting will be January 12, 2016, in Oregon City.

A river runs through it



Grand Marshal Sandy Carter leads 2015 West Linn Old Time Fair parade (photo courtesy of Sandy Carter)

Despite the hot weather, there was a good turnout for West Linn's Old Time Fair parade on Saturday, July 18th. The parade theme was "A River Runs Through It" and leading the parade as Grand Marshal was Sandy Carter, long-time advocate for recognition of the Willamette Falls and the locks for their historical and economic importance.

A contingent of Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation board members, families, and friends carried "Unlock the Locks" signs and a banner. Larry McIntyre's float entry, a charming replica of the Maria Wilkins, the first boat through the locks, won the President's Trophy for best float entry.

Unlock the locks!



Jon Miller and Roger Shepherd lead locks supporters in Old Time Fair parade (photo courtesy of Sandy Carter)

Industrial heritage up close

The Willamette Falls Legacy project offers tours for the general public and for community organizations of up to 15 people. If you get a chance, take advantage of an opportunity to learn more about the efforts being made to preserve the cultural and industrial heritage on the east side of the Willamette Falls.

Representatives from the Willamette Falls Legacy Project are also available to make presentations to your organization about the project and listen to your input. Contact info@rediscoverthefalls.com to get involved.

Grindstones project needs donors

The Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation has made completing the Grindstones project a top priority goal for 2015. Despite our efforts to raise funds through various local cultural grants, there is still a shortfall. The Foundation is hoping to raise the remaining funds through private donations. Donors contributing \$200 or more will be recognized on a plaque to be mounted near the sculpture. A plaque honoring those who worked at the mill is also planned, with a minimum donation of \$100. If you would like to help, please see the donation form in this newsletter or visit the website at <http://www.willamettefalls.org>. For more information, call the Foundation at 503-650-9570.

WHO WE ARE

We are partners, stewards and advocates of the culture and heritage at Willamette Falls.

Our mission is:

To preserve and promote awareness of the magnificence and history at Willamette Falls so that it will live in the minds and imaginations of people of all ages.

YES, I would like to make a contribution to the Grindstones project. Donors contributing \$200 or more will be recognized on a plaque to be mounted near the sculpture. Business donors will be recognized beginning at the Platinum donation level. A plaque honoring those who worked at the mill is also planned, with a minimum donation of \$100 for those individuals.

- \$_____ (any amount is appreciated) \$100 (mill worker memorial plaque)
 \$200 (silver donation level) \$300 (gold donation level) \$400+ (platinum donation level)

Name _____ Email _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

In remembrance of (if applicable): _____

Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation is a 501(C)(3) non-profit Oregon corporation established for educational purposes and heritage preservation, and is on the Oregon Cultural Trust's list of qualified Oregon nonprofits.

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President's Message

By Jim Mattis

It takes a crew working together to achieve a mission! The Foundation is blessed to have Board members who volunteer their talent, time and treasure to further its mission of celebrating and promoting the industrial heritage of the Willamette Falls area. We are closing in on raising the money needed to fund the Grindstones Project and continue to lead and join others in getting the Locks restored, reopened and transferred to new ownership.

After five years as President, I will step down at the end of this year but remain on the Board. Troy Bowers will be our new President and we are fortunate to have such an energetic strategic minded person to be our captain. The Foundation is lucky to still have the energy and vision of four people who were with the Foundation at its beginnings 12 years ago: Jody Carson, Sandy Carter, Betty Folmsbee and Alma Coston. Roger Shepherd and Larry McIntyre contribute their many talents and historical knowledge; Jon Miller keeps us in touch with our finances; Dan Gardner has been our "Mr. Connected-to-Everything-in-West Linn" guy; Nancy Kraushaar is doing yeoman's work in grant writing; Christine Steel brings us her writing and editing talents; and newer members Jackie Flowers and Scott Galloway are engaged in many goal efforts. It takes a talented, industrious crew rowing together to move a boat or an organization forward and this crew has done just that.

Even with a great crew, we cannot accomplish the Foundation's goals without others willing to help us as well. We truly appreciate the support you are able to give us.

Building the *Maria Wilkins* - a replica of the first boat through the locks

By Larry McIntyre

When the theme "A River Runs Through It" was announced in April for the 2015 West Linn Old Time Fair and parade, I thought this would be a perfect fit for both the West Linn Historical Society and The Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation to tell the story of the first boat to pass through the locks. At the same time, I was looking for an idea or concept that would allow me to work and make something with my granddaughter, Kate. So I started to do some research. The newspaper accounts in 1873 listed people involved, but were written as though we were already familiar with the dignitaries I wanted to show on the decks. And what did the boat look like?

I started looking around for a picture of the *Maria Wilkins*. Not too many pictures were taken of boats back then, especially working towboats. However I did find a number of photos of boats that were from the Oregon coast and about the right time period. The *Maria Wilkins* was very narrow when compared to many other boats. I got lucky when I found a couple of boats in the same overall size range. This gave me

the general design that I needed. Then came the question of scale. This may not seem to be a big issue but when you are going to make a lot of “people” on board of various sizes it becomes one. I settled on one inch equals one foot.

Once I determined the scale and created scale drawings, Kate and I started cutting the people out of Styrofoam. I got blocks of foam from trash cans at a number of places. Michaels is the best and the price is right – zero. Once we cut them out and glued arms on the bodies we started to paint them.

For the float itself, I used the wheels from two used golf bag carts from Goodwill: The float body was mostly wood recycled from scrap pallets, cardboard scavenged from IKEA and Wal-Mart, and newspapers. The upper portion of the boat was made from empty cereal boxes. The tongue was carefully selected from a stack of old fencing. A good brushing with a wire brush cleaned out the rotted areas and at that point exposed its possible use. Calculating the float weight at about 75 pounds and factoring in the steepness of the hill we live on, I calculated if we got to the top there we were good to go.

Kate and a friend as well as Grandma and Grandpa rode in the back of a borrowed pickup truck that pulled our float and threw out candy while in the parade. The truck was driven by our son Jeff. How many hours were spent on the project? Who knows and who cares? We had lots of enjoyment building the float. (Read more about the *Maria Wilkins* story on our website, www.willamettefalls.org.)



The Maria Wilkins replica float won the President’s Trophy for best float entry. (Photo courtesy of Sandy Carter)

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- Please send me your newsletter via regular mail email
- Please let me know about volunteer opportunities
- Please contact me about a meeting, presentation, or tour
- I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution:
 - Up to \$50 Friend \$51 to \$99 Supporter \$100 to \$499 Benefactor
 - \$500 to \$999 Silver Partner \$1000 to \$4999 Gold Partner
 - \$5000 and up Legacy Sponsor \$ _____ Corporate Sponsor
 - I would prefer to be a Monthly Sustaining Donor at the \$ _____ level.

Name _____ Email _____
 Address _____
 City/State/Zip _____ Phone _____

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