



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

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Fall 2006

Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips

The people and the stories of Crown Zellerbach International, West Linn Division, 1928-1986

Sandy Carter has been tossing, turning and dreaming in full color lately—dreaming of thousands of video snippets and old photos and an award-winning video oral history for West Linn. This fall she and the project's videographer have logged hundreds of hours of video editing, pushing through to the promised October completion of WFHF's biggest project since Lock Fest.

This mammoth oral history project, generously funded by The Kinsman Foundation and produced in part through the cooperation of Willamette Falls Television, is based on extensive interviews with 17 papermill workers—most of whom were long-time Crown Zellerbach employees.

Our Crown Zellerbach video collection now amounts to more than 37 hours of raw video, including a September mill tour, graciously hosted by the West Linn Paper Company for four of our retirees. We also recorded the annual reunion of Crown Zee Retirees & Associates, and scanned a significant

number of images contributed by our subjects. The stories in the video—in turn funny, touching and grim—paint a priceless picture of millwork more than half a century ago.

The movie was 'sneak previewed' at West Linn Lutheran Church on November 6 for our stars, our board, and Keith Kinsman, our funder. On the drawing board are plans for a gala premiere for our big winter fundraiser in a larger theatre or auditorium. Party planners are needed, plus suggestions for sponsors and for facilities that are accessible and have ample parking.

Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips is close-captioned for potential submission to Oregon Public Broadcasting. VHS and DVD copies of the completed production will be given to the state and Clackamas County historical societies and to libraries. DVDs of the two-part, two hour movie will be available for sale for \$24.95 through our website by December. What a great gift for West Linnners, mill families and history lovers in general!



SEE INSIDE...November Meeting on the 14th!

NOVEMBER MEETING

Our November 14th WFHF meeting will feature Jeremy Cogdill, an architecture student whose recent thesis focused on the “ways in which the historic mills could serve as an economic and cultural engine for the surrounding region.” Jeremy will share his vision for very long-term adaptive reuse of Moore’s Island. Join us for this thought-provoking 30-minute program—Contact Sandy to RSVP and get location info: 503-650-9570 or 503-655-0649

Locks Commercial Usage Up

Willamette Falls Locks closed the 2006 season with commercial usage up from 2005—very good news indeed as the *Oregon Solutions* working groups continue their pursuit of new long-term operations and funding arrangements by 10/1/2007.

PGE Plans Heritage Project at Falls

PGE called a meeting of its Historic Properties Work Group October 24th, to discuss its draft “Interpretation and Education Strategy.” The draft plan focuses on possible future projects in PGE’s Willamette Falls “Historic Properties Management Plan” area. WFHF, as part of the workgroup, attended this first annual meeting to represent our education and preservation goals for the area.

Director’s Message

Hooray for Blue Heron Paper Company— A home at last!

As we move into the changes and challenges of fall, WFHF has much to be thankful for. Heading our “Thank You” list is Blue Heron Paper Company, which, in response to the appeal for office space in our summer newsletter, has offered us a wonderful office in Oregon City. At press time, we are mostly moved in. We have a new phone line into the building (427 Main in Oregon City); we’ve signed up for DSL; signed up with SAIF; found an insurance underwriter and gotten liability coverage in place; and enlisted super-volunteer Chuck Ferrell and his truck to help move our donated office furnishings from my garage to the new office. (Organizational work and limited office hours will start Nov. 15th.) Acumentra has donated a computer, monitor and keyboard—just about the last piece.

Other gifts from the universe? Our falls-area mayors have stepped up to the plate and initiated heritage master-planning. Wilsonville Concrete Products has donated \$1,000 to support a year of this newsletter, starting with this issue. And Spirit Mountain Community Fund supported our first year of part-time staffing, making all of this possible.

It has been a summer of remarkable progress, but also of disappointment. While we gained support from Blue Heron and other business partners and from the City of West Linn, we’ve

been denied capacity-building grants from the Oregon Community Foundation, the Murdoch Charitable Trust and the Meyer Memorial Trust because we are currently too ‘foundation-dependent.’ The key to continuing staffing and gaining more foundation support in the next year will be proving our ‘community support’ by raising more home-grown money from individuals and from fundraisers, like the sale of our commemorative posters and our Oral History documentary. Paying for DSL, workers’ comp coverage and liability insurance is the part of doing business that we need to cover from private donations, either item-specific or for general support.

If you’d like to be part of the fundraising that will keep us moving forward, here are three possibilities. 1) Leverage your support for us by giving at your workplace through employer matching plans—so far, only PGE and Tektronix have been signed on for this painless ploy. 2) Give Sandy or Sherri Burch a call if you’d like to work on or host a fundraiser. It’ll be fun, and any out-of-pocket costs will be tax-deductible. Or, 3), if you are interested in making a cash contribution, call Sandy for an information packet and presentation, and be sure to look into leveraging your generosity through a matching donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust, which translates to a direct tax credit—one more thing to be thankful for this month.

Falls-area Master Planning begins

WFHF-instigated master-planning for falls-area heritage sites is now supported by the mayors of two towns flanking the falls. West Linn Mayor Norm King and Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris, with assistance from the Clackamas County Tourism Development Council, invited local businesses and tourism and heritage organizations to attend an exploratory meeting October 5th.

Representatives of WFHF, the Ice Age Floods Institute, Blue Heron and West Linn Paper Companies, Clackamas Heritage Partners, Abernethy Center and *Oregon Solutions’* Locks workgroup attended the meeting, hosted by the TDC. County Administrator Jon Mantay sat in on the meeting. Portland General Electric, the

Oregon City Chamber of Commerce and the mayor of Gladstone are also on the invitation list. The process hopes to attract grant funding for professional facilitation.

We thank our mayors for standing together to lead this important effort, which will provide a framework for regional requests for heritage and tourism grants, large and small. By defining the value and potential role of various historic resources, the process should give a broader context to future preservation campaigns and collaborative programs. (Now if we can just get a good interpretive sign at the 99E falls viewpoint, so people can appreciate the natural features and historic industry on display there...)

Oregon Solutions progress report

As *Oregon Solutions* moves into its second year of facilitation of the Willamette Falls Locks Taskforce, convener Verne Duncan has asked WFHF Director Sandy Carter to lead one of the working group's three subcommittees—the group focused on preservation and promotion of the locks as a valuable, national-quality heritage resource. Carter and others are being assisted by OS as they work to raise regional, state and national awareness of our 133-year-old transportation treasure.

With Sania Radcliffe, of PGE, and Oregon Department of Transportation's Cultural Resources Program Coordinator Alex McMurry, Carter co-led a visiting Seattle engineer on a special September locks tour. The tour was the preface to a bid to study needed locks repairs and potential long-term maintenance costs. Carter is also working with George Kramer,

Ashland preservation consultant, to move forward the re-nomination of the locks to the National Register.

Two other OS subgroups this year will be figuring out who will operate, fund and administer the locks after October 1, 2007. Those committees have had preliminary meetings with likely partners and are moving ahead aggressively, thinking "outside the box" about potential collaborative funding and operations designs.

Verne Duncan turned over guidance of the taskforce in September to a steering committee, which will have *Oregon Solutions* staff assistance. Carter is on the steering committee. OS would still welcome contributions to the project budget. Contact Steve Greenwood, through www.orsolutions.org.



The draw bridge was down and the welcome mat out for Lock Fest managers' July 12th mill tour



Volunteers, including Jill Briney, of Willamette, stayed in the shade of the foundation booth and a nearby fir at July's blisteringly hot Old Time Faire.

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.

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 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
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Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit Oregon corporation established for educational purposes and heritage preservation.

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News Briefs from WFHF

- **West Linn Paper Company** hosted our lead 2006 Lock Fest volunteers July 12th for a fascinating tour of old and new parts of the mill, with peeks at an operating paper machine, the old ground wood mill building and the falls. Thank you so much, Ian and Penny!
- The recent appearance of **historic signage in Willamette's commercial district** and West Linn's application to become a Certified Local Government marked the conclusion of two WFHF projects begun several years ago, in partnership with the city, the Chamber and the Willamette Neighborhood Association.
- **Summer festivals** in Willamette Park and Mary S. Young saw us selling T-shirts and art posters to raise money and boost visibility—thank you, booth helpers and community partners who made those opportunities possible, especially Sherri Burch, Jody Carson, Dave Froode and the O'Tooles. Our foam-core-mounted versions of the Daniel Robinson poster were our hottest sellers at the Art in the Park festival, and should be available from our website any day.
- **Mark Your Calendars**—2007 Lock Fest will fall on September 22nd, capitalizing on statistically nicer weather, cleaner water, the close of the boating season and the end of the Corps of Engineers' federal fiscal year September 30.
- **Congresswoman Darlene Hooley** hosted her second 'Willamette River United' conference 10/19, this time in Salem. The meeting highlighted her draft legislation to help stimulate the revitalization of heritage-rich towns along the river and offered interested parties a chance to pitch their river-related projects to the 110 businesses, citizens, jurisdictions and nonprofit representatives in attendance. Call Rep. Hooley's office for more information: 503-557-1324
- The **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission** has ordered the 2008 decommissioning and partial demolition of the former Hawley Power Plant at Black Point, on the Oregon City side of the falls, at the site of Station A's historic first long-distance transmission of electricity.

Industrial Art Jam a sure thing for Spring

Who would have thought a short e-mail could produce such joy? But an August 28 note from Deb Schallert--confirming Portland General Electric's willingness to host our first "Industrial Art Jam" at the remodeled Sullivan hydroelectric plant next spring--came in the nick of time.

WFHF Executive Director Sandy Carter was just putting the finishing touches on a \$1,500 on-line grant application to the Regional Arts and Culture Council. The RACC grant, if received, would supplement our \$500 West Linn Arts Commission grant and committed 'in-kind match' for the jam;

would pay the major part of its real cash expenses; and would enable the project to produce a high-quality art catalog of the unique collection that will result from this innovative project. RACC staff says its "Artistic Focus" grant award winners will be announced in December, so cross your fingers.

Schallert also indicated, at WFHF's September board meeting, that a second jam might be approved, focusing on the former Hawley power plant at Black Point before that historic building is demolished under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decommissioning order in 2008.

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