



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Volume 7, Number 3

Fall 2007

West Linn power plant art show

The T.W. Sullivan Art Jam's "Art Contemplates Industry" collection—conceived and coordinated by Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation—has completed its month at the West Linn Library gallery and moved to a three-month installation at Providence Milwaukie Hospital. The show continues to turn heads, as shown by comments in September's Guest Register: "Great show about power plants! Very powerful!" "Nice to see the local focus in these varied works!" "Thanks for keeping history alive through art."

The collection includes a large oil painting by Christopher Mooney, a three-dimensional piece by Lisa Wilcox, striking photographs by Matthew Letzelter and Mark Rupert, pencil sketches by Laura Foster, a four-panel oil by Jamee Linton, a black and white print and a large charcoal/tempera drawing by Jonnel Covault, and an 8' by 4' hanging silk banner of inkjet images by Martha Wilcox, a San Francisco artist.

Special thanks go to Lynette Meadows and other library staff for help installing the collection in West Linn, and to the library and Bolton Market of Choice for partial sponsorship of the September Artist's reception. Co-curators Lisa Wilcox and Sandy Carter, with Sherri Burch, Lynette Meadows and Beth Kieres, made the West Linn display and reception possible through their valuable volunteer time and effort.

If you haven't seen this wonderful project yet, meet the artists December 5 at our reception at the Providence



"Powerhouse" by Mark Rupert; 16 x 20 Digital Ultrachrome Print on Hahnemuhle German Etching Paper. Rupert's other Sullivan piece is shown on page 4.

Milwaukie gallery venue. Please call Sandy for more information. Thanks to a \$1,000 grant from the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition, a collection catalog should be completed by December, to be available to patrons and also donated to the library and the County Historical Society for posterity.

To see the T.W. Sullivan show at Providence, take Dwyer Drive, off SE 32nd Avenue in Milwaukie, and go uphill to parking lot D. The gallery is just inside the West Entrance of the hospital, on lot D, in the area of the Sleep Disorders Clinic.



Volunteer Opportunity

An award of \$3,500 from the Oregon Cultural Trust will help staff begin to transcribe the raw video archive of the Crown Zellerbach project, to make the 17 interviews with former mill workers available for library patrons, researchers and students. The Trust's grant process is highly competitive, so the award is a very welcome endorsement of our oral history work, marking it as of statewide importance. Please contact Sandy (503-650-9570) if you know of a qualified transcriptionist who may be willing to contribute professional time to this project as a charitable donation.

Welcome!

November 13 saw three new members, all from West Linn, accepted to the foundation board: Patti Galle (Lock Fest 2007 Volunteer Coordinator), Mike Anderson (formerly on McLean House Board) and Jennifer Gillham, Chamber board member and manager of the Willamette Drive Bank of America. All three new members bring great ideas and enthusiasm.

Board Slate for 2008

Sherri Burch, President
Roger Shepherd, Vice President
Loretta Schwarz, Treasurer
Betty Folmsbee, Recording Secretary
Jody Carson, ex-officio
Sandy Carter, Past President/ED

Heartfelt Thanks

To Blue Heron Paper Company's Mike Sieber and building manager Shirley Rolston for allowing us use of a second office at 427 Main Street, for storage and archival space, and for being such generous and thoughtful landlords for the last year. To Sherri and Dee Burch and Chuck Ferrell, of Accurate Installation, for promised files and offices furniture to help organize the storage room and set up a volunteer workstation. Now we just need a second computer setup

Director's Message

Given the realities of non-profit fundraising, the fall newsletter of most organizations typically contains a plea for year-end charitable donations, and this newsletter is no different. Last year the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation budget edged over \$53,000 in grants, sales, and cash contributions.

Of that, only \$12,300 went to staffing and administrative costs and the remainder to programs like Lock Fest and the Kinsman documentary (\$18,000 grant) history of mill work. This year we're on track to raise slightly less, and fundraising for general support remains our biggest challenge. We've had success in landing foundation and government grants for our projects, but individual and corporate donations are essential parts of our budget, because IRS rules for 501(c)(3) organizations dictate a well-rounded funding strategy that demonstrates community—not just 'large foundation'—support, AND most large grantors look less favorably on paying for staff time—which of course is how those projects get conceived and implemented.

Two points that deserve emphasis this year are:

- The 2007 tax advantages for taxpayers age 70½ or older who make mandatory distributions from their IRAs of up to \$100,000 to qualified charitable organizations like Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, and

- The double advantage of donating to Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation and then giving a matching amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust. The Trust, in turn, supports the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon Historical Society, the Oregon Arts Commission, the Oregon Council for the Humanities, and the State Historic Preservation Office, as well as small grant programs like the county's Cultural Coalition, from which three foundation projects have received funding in the last three years. Since it's likely that we'll apply for project support from several of those state entities, money given to 'grow' them may also circle around and come back to us eventually. The OCT donation to us is a tax-deductible contribution and the matching donation to the OCT is an actual tax credit, so your gift to the OCT will reduce your April Oregon Income Tax dollar for dollar and then some. (Consult your tax preparer for info on exactly how your return will be affected.) This offer has a \$500 ceiling for individuals, \$1,000 for couples filing jointly and \$2,500 for Oregon corporations.

Please consider supporting heritage and culture this year through donations to Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation and the Oregon Cultural Trust, to both advance our preservation work and preserve some dollars-and-cents on your 2007 tax filing.

Happy Holidays,
Sandy Carter



Foundation board members, friends and family enjoyed a late-August river outing aboard Michael Gehrman's 14-passenger Wy-East canoe, paddling from Hebb Park on the upper Willamette down through Rock Island's craggy scenery and taking out at Bernert's Landing in Willamette Park.

Lock Fest 2007 won new fans, but 2008 outlook dims

September 22nd was a perfect fall day, and thanks to effectively placed radio and print ads and stories, families from all over the region visited our West Linn locks, many for the first time. A crowd of 4,000 was attracted to the chance to ride the Sternwheeler Rose through the locks, take pictures of our amazing transportation and heritage resource in action, learn about local history at the falls and tour our historic West Linn industry.

History interpreters in period dress aboard the Rose, at the Lock Museum, and riding both trolleys told visitors about the 1870s, reasons the locks were built, their unique construction and their influence on the economic and social development of upper and lower Willamette River communities.

The boat rides and multiple layers of interpretation this year were sponsored by the Oregon Solutions Willamette Falls Locks working group—the same group of river and community stakeholders that landed the ODOT grant last year that kept the locks in operation during the '06 and '07 boating seasons. This year's festival was our fourth annual community celebration of history at the falls. (Look for our short list of people we need to thank, inserted in this newsletter.)

Lock Fest won over more fans and the 2007 operating season for Willamette Falls Locks ended well October 1, with lockages up again, for the second year running. Interest in building upriver tourist trips is on the upswing, but preservation efforts have now hit a big bump. The Corps of Engineers must do a \$511,000 periodic major safety inspection of the lock gates (called an Hydraulic and Steel Structures inspection) before the locks can operate again.

The Corps has informed Congress of this development and reported back to the Oregon Solutions steering committee that it is “unlikely” that full funding of the HSS inspection and

operations will be forthcoming from Congress. This means that the locks will not open next spring, unless something extraordinary happens. We remain hopeful that something extraordinary WILL happen, and committed partners will meet November 16th to tackle this new problem. To be included in tourism calendars, we've gone ahead and set the date for Lock Fest 2008 as September 13, in coordination with the West Linn Art Festival, and will see what the coming months bring.



West Linn Paper Company allowed Lock Fest event photographer to capture this rare view of the mill and the Rose transiting the locks Sept. 22. Festival canopies are center-right in the photo.

Our foundation has launched a ‘savings account’ dedicated to having the Locks declared a National Historic Landmark by the National Parks service. Stewardship for our priceless places comes with a price tag, so we are dedicating \$1,200 of Lock Fest donations as seed for this effort. We need to raise a minimum of \$9,000 more to be able to hire an expert heritage consultant to develop the NHL nomination. We'd like to see the work launched by spring, 2008. The locks qualify as a heritage site of national importance, and the achievement of National Historic Landmark status will qualify it for major preservation grants like “Save America's Treasures.” Grants could then help with repairs and restoration costs as the Willamette Falls Locks stakeholders group works to identify a new fiscal ‘owner’.

If you'd like to donate specifically to the Locks NHL fund, please write ‘NHL Fund’ on your check to Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, PO Box 311, Marylhurst, OR 97036. All contributions are tax deductible, and you'll receive a tax receipt after the first of the year.



Sternwheeler riders and other festival visitors contemplate each other during a warm and lazy moment at Chamber Three during 2007 Lock Fest.

News Briefs from WFHF

- Sandy Carter was the first “First Wednesday” speaker October 3, at the Lake Oswego Heritage House. She shared some of the high points, values and pitfalls of capturing the oral history of West Linn millwork on video last year.
- Carter will be one of the trainers in an oral history seminar Saturday, March 8, 10 – 11:30 a.m. at the Holy Names Heritage Center. The HNHC—just opened in June—hopes to be a family history resource for the region, and its website offers much useful information for both pro and amateur researchers on a variety of topics of interest. Visit the center at 17425 Holy Names Dr., off Highway 43 in the Marylhurst area, or call Tamra at 503.607.0595.
- Articles about Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation projects appeared recently in the Oswego Heritage Commission newsletter, the Society for Industrial Archeology newsletter and the Northwest Oral History Association newsletter. Many thanks to Nancy Headlee, Patrick Harshbarger and Janice Dilg for featuring us and our work.
- Sandy Carter is again spending many hours a week at the video editing studios of Willamette Falls Television in Oregon City, as the second Crown Zellerbach movie takes shape. She hopes to have our second documentary, only one hour in length, available for holiday shoppers in December.
- Thanks to a \$4,500 grant from the Juan Young Trust, the foundation has launched a project that will develop content summaries and other enrichment materials to enable the use of “Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips” in West Linn – Wilsonville High School classrooms as a rich local resource for social science and history students.
- In response to recent orders for our Crown Zellerbach documentary DVD, Sandy shipped five copies to the Multnomah County Library and two to the Oregon State Library. Yay!

Historic tools on display



“Tools” by Mark Rupert; 16 x 20 Digital Ultrachrome Print on Hahnemuhle German Etching Paper.

WFHF Public Art project lands seed money, seeks planning group members

In addition to our grant for the T.W. Sullivan Art Jam catalog, the county’s Cultural Coalition honored the Grindstones Project with an award of \$2,250 to the West Linn Arts Commission for eventual art finalists’ stipends. The Grindstones Project is to be the city’s first publicly funded art project and was endorsed by the arts group last spring.

Carter and incoming VPRoger Shepherd, who is also a member of the city’s Parks Board, are recruiting a city-wide planning committee this fall.

Interested West Linn individuals, groups, and potential business sponsors should contact Sandy, at 503-650-9570, to join the planning effort for this ambitious project, which will commemorate West Linn’s history as a mill town. Sandy Carter wrote the grant on behalf of the Arts Commission.

Six historic grindstones have been donated to the City by the West Linn Paper Company and now rest in Willamette Park, awaiting the development and implementation of a full-fledged plan for a public art competition. The final monument will be both visually arresting and—with help from the Society of Industrial Archeology—will offer interpretation of the old stones, in a public space, where its viewers can physically relate to the grand, perhaps heroic scale of mill work.

Thank you to some of our wonderful 2007 Lock Fest volunteers!

Aaron Fellin
Adam & Angie Smith
Alan Lewis
Alice Johansson
Alice Richmond
Alma Coston
Angela Dreyer
Ann Fleming
Art Finklea
Asia Lewis
Barbara Mann
Becky Smith
Beth Kieres
Bill Peebler
Bob Beckle
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Caryl Johnson
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Elizabeth & Andy Rocchia
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Greg Smith
Guy LaCesa
Harlan Geigle
Ian Dunlap
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Steve Bacon
Steve Harry
Steve Peake
Susan Hartford
Susan Hopkins
Susanna Kuo
Suzy Kopetski
Terry Wuebke
Tom Brady
Tom Loun
Tom Neff
Tom Watters
Tony Krause

Please let us know if you should be on this list.

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.

- Please send me your newsletter regular mail email Please notify me of regular meetings, the same way
 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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