



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Volume 7, Number 1

Winter 2007

Crown Zellerbach film catches the public eye

Who would have thought that a video featuring a group of retired mill workers telling tales of papermaking could strike such a chord with the 2007 public? Yet “Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips”, our two-hour, in-their-own-words exploration of life and millwork in mid-20th Century West Linn is drawing praise from history-loving viewers within and outside West Linn.

- Greg Williams, reference librarian and video guru at the West Linn Library made our new DVD one of the January ‘recommended’ offerings on the library’s website.
- Cara Ungar-Gutierrez, Ph.D., the Director of Education at the Oregon Historical Society previewed the movie and said, “I did have the opportunity to browse over your project and it is wonderful.” We are exploring future collaboration with OHS educational programs.
- The DVD has been reviewed and vaunted in both the *West Linn Tidings* and the *SouthWest Weekly* section of *The Oregonian* (cover story). Those articles have triggered checks and PayPal orders for the movie from California, Washington, and several Oregon cities, as the word spreads.
- At a sneak preview in November, the retirees who shared stories for the movie pronounced it wonderful, and more important, stamped it an accurate portrayal of their industry.
- West Linn High School is sponsoring our public premiere of the movie, February 17, in its beautiful new theatre. The premiere will be our first fundraising event, and will support more preservation work. The movie will air on Willamette Falls Cable Access after the premiere.

Viewers of the DVD are sending us notes of gratitude, enjoyment and encouragement to keep up the good work. We hope to be able to turn the final four unfinished sequences of “Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips” into another hour of DVD this year and then move into the next phase of



Donna Schultze Dunn, West Linn resident and daughter of Rosie Schultze, was featured in a Pacific Telephone magazine article on the West Linn mill in 1958, during a period when the mill made the directory paper for the phone company. Her father (b.1909-d.2006) was the first retiree interviewed for the Crown Zee project, in 2005, when he was 96 years old. He was born in West Oregon City—a part of what would later become the City of West Linn.

our plan—the creation of an oral history video library. The library of profiles will be a growing, open-ended collection of full-length millworker interviews, continuing to collect and preserve our vanishing Industrial Age stories for posterity.

In nearby towns that were built—both literally and figuratively—by our mills for over five generations, a healthy percentage of families will find this an informative addition to their family archives. Watching it with a beloved parent or grandparent might even be the catalyst for capturing some of your own elders’ stories.

▶ Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips

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

Public Premiere — Saturday, February 17 • West Linn High School Theatre, 5464 West A Street

5-8 p.m., doors open at 4:30 • Sponsored by West Linn High School • Suggested \$10 donations at the box office

The old West Linn noon whistle will be on display in the theatre lobby through the generosity of Don Pendergraft. Refreshments available at intermission.

Mark Your Calendar

Mark your calendar for the February 13 monthly meeting of the foundation and its informal coalition of partners, from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m., at 427 Main Street, Oregon City.

Speaker

Speaker Dick Akins, a financial planner and President of the West Linn Lions Club, will explain the tax advantages for taxpayers age 70-1/2 or older who take qualified charitable distributions of up to \$100,000 from their IRAs in 2007.

T.W. Sullivan Art Jam

Arts partners are sought to help plan the 2007 Art Jam. Please contact Sandy, at 655-0649. A recent grant application to the Regional Arts and Culture Council to help support this wonderful, innovative concept has been denied, but the project is proceeding, with some minor course corrections.

January Meeting

Peggy Sigler, a Canby history activist and fellow member of the Clackamas County Heritage Council, briefed our January coalition meeting on her work under a contract with Clackamas County to inventory the 350 historic sites in unincorporated regions of the county, compile them into a master list, field visit all the properties and create a master notebook with descriptions and site plans. Her data will eventually be entered into a state database.

Director's Message

WANTED: Support for safeguarding our communities' collective memory

As I sit in our new, donated headquarters, typing at our donated computer, sitting in a donated chair sending out tax receipts to our donors, I marvel at how far we've progressed in this past year on your generosity and energy. This has been a year of unprecedented change for the foundation. Thanks to the trust of a few major funders and the money, time, energy and encouragement of hundreds of friends, we've established a physical office, instituted quarterly newsletters and a new web presence, AND accomplished some valuable program goals. It's been a stretch with just one-quarter of a paid employee.

We completed a two-hour history documentary that allows the people who lived the history to tell the story, and we're turning that educational product into a modest fundraiser. We continued to help steer the Oregon Solutions Willamette Locks workgroup, as, in its second year, it works to define an innovative new permanent solution to the funding threat that has had river users and history buffs holding their breath for four years about impending closure of the locks.

We built new partnerships with Historic Oregon City, West Linn-Wilsonville School District, the Oregon Historical Society, Willamette Falls Television, the West Linn Arts Commission, Portland General Electric's retirees'

group and many other groups. We had another successful Lock Fest, to continue the advocacy-cum-entertainment that has been such a powerful tool in raising awareness of the Locks and its surrounding hydro-powered, historic industry. And we met many of you at both the West Linn Old Time Fair and the Mary S. Young Festival in the Trees.

If we can now attract the modest amount needed to sustain our momentum and avoid organizational burnout by supporting our part-time ED and hiring a part-time office manager, the sky will be the limit. So if you have not yet contributed, the time is now. General support will keep our programs, as well as our small payroll, running. If you have ideas about logical sources of funding or would like to host a home-party benefit, let us know. If you don't own our movie, buy one or come and see it on the 17th.

Such blatant solicitation goes against our grain, but non-profits cannot be sustained on pure passion and volunteer energy. As we evolve and apply for more grants, we have to show matching commitment from our community.

Wanted in 2007: major and minor donors who believe that our cities' stories should be safeguarded, our context known and appreciated, our past honored. No experience necessary.

Happy New Year,
Sandy Carter

New PGE History Center

WFHF President Sherri Burch and Sandy Carter jumped at an invitation from Sunny Radcliffe, of Portland General Electric (PGE), to attend an open house of the new PGE History Center—a small museum housed within a PGE warehouse near OMSI. At the event they bonded with Chick Colby, head of the PGE Retirees group. As a result of the connection, Chick borrowed Sherri's Station A exhibit boards to display at a December luncheon attended by more than 170 retirees, some of whom had undoubtedly worked in West Linn at the T.W. Sullivan facility.

A museum has long been a dream of former PGE employees and their strong leadership prevailed upon PGE management to arrange for a one-year, curator-on-loan from the Oregon Historical Society. The curator worked with employee-collected artifacts and photos, and the museum is a charming success story that can be



Sherri and Sandy with Chick Colby in the new PGE Museum. Photo courtesy of Allen Richardson, PGE retiree.

seen by appointment by anyone who is interested in the development of electric technology at the falls and in the Portland region.

Permanent positive stewardship for locks is on the horizon

Even a bad weather day couldn't keep key partners from January 11th's Willamette Falls Locks Oregon Solutions meeting at the Museum of the Oregon Territory. The meeting attracted high-level representation from WFHF, the Governor's Office, Clackamas County Tourism Development, Senator Gordon Smith's office, Oregon Department of Transportation, US Army Corps of Engineers, Ice Age Floods West Linn Chapter, American Heritage Rivers/BLM, vessel operators, PGE, the Oregon Marine Board, State Parks and Recreation, and the Oregon Economic Development office. Former utility executive Dwayne Foley, a key member from the private sector, also braved the ice.

Sandy Carter chairs the group's subcommittee for heritage preservation and promotion, which has already initiated an agreement with preservation consultant and Oregon Heritage

Commission member George Kramer, of Ashland. Kramer, who is very familiar with the Locks from his work on the historic inventory for PGE's recent relicensing process, is preparing an updated nomination of the Locks for the National Register, to create a firm foundation for potential applications for Save America's Treasures or other National Park Service grants. Such programs may be tapped to restore the 134-year-old transportation facility, after its 'thin' 1973 nomination is redone to 2007 standards of proof.

Meanwhile, three engineering firms will soon receive a Request for Qualifications from the Clackamas Heritage Partners, which is acting as the fiscal agent for an OS-initiated contract to assess the Locks' future capital repair needs, restoration options and price tags. The resulting engineering study will complement the Locks' re-nomination, as well as providing critical information for any potential Lock steward.

Much work is going on behind the scenes at the County, the Corps, and the State. Financed by member contributions and led by the highly-respected former State Senator and Superintendent of Instruction Verne Duncan, the group holds high hopes of being able to witness a five-to-seven year financing and operating collaborative agreement at Lock Fest, September 22, 2007, ushering in a new era of financial stability and innovative tourism and transportation uses of the Locks.



The locks in a less-stressful financial era, from the WFHF Crown Zellerbach digital photo collection (circa 1960s).

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
- Up to \$50** Friend **\$50 to \$99** Supporter **\$100 to \$499** Benefactor **\$500 to \$999** Silver Partner
 \$1,000 to \$4,999 Gold Partner **\$5,000 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 _____

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

Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation • P.O. Box 311 • Marylhurst, OR 97036
VoiceMail: 503.650.9570 • www.willamettefalls.org

News Briefs from WFHF

The Hydropower Story: Sherri Burch's deep research on the world's first long-distance transmission of direct current, from Willamette Falls to Portland on June 3, 1889, deserves a high-profile airing. With that in mind, Sherri, WFHF president, and Sandy Carter, executive director, will soon co-author a scholarly article on PGE's Station A for submission to the Oregon Historical Quarterly. Old Station A was taken down in 1965 but remnants of its historic turbines and concrete footings can still be seen from the 99E Falls Overlook, next to the iconic Hawley hydropower structure on Black Point. The moral of our story will be "Don't believe everything you see on OPB about the Niagara Falls to Buffalo, New York transmission in 1896. We were first."

The Grindstones Project: Our latest Industry & Art concept is a public art competition to create a heritage monument or public sculpture from the massive mill grindstones that played such a huge roll in West Linn history. We pitched the idea to the City's Art Commission and Parks Board on January 30th. The project could be a focal point for the "Oregon 150" celebration (Oregon's sesquicentennial birthday party) in West Linn in 2009. Call Sandy for more information.

Poster Collectors: Dan Robinson is a man of his word. A small envelope containing a transparency of our 2007 Lock Fest marketing poster image arrived in early January and is being digitized by JDA Color, in Portland. We hope to approach potential printing sponsors in February and have a copy of the image on the website by March. The image, dark and dramatic, shows Hawley Power Plant and the West Linn mill seawall, accented by the whimsy of a little red boat on the river. It is a painting from Robinson's "In Oregon"—a wonderful collection containing many scenes from around Willamette Falls.

Verizon Scholarships: WFHF Treasurer Loretta Schwarz and ED Sandy Carter attended an all-day December training on "Making QuickBooks Work for Your Non-Profit," thanks to two \$90 scholarships from Verizon. The workshop, sponsored by Technical Assistance for Community Services, is part of staff and board training needed as our organizational infrastructure and record-keeping moves into new hands and consolidates in a new computer. (WANTED: Experienced help in establishing office systems, non-profit uses of Access and QuickBooks, and just plain sorting and filing.)

Undying thanks...

- To West Linn photographer Tom Irely, who was smitten by the 2006 Lock Fest limited edition poster and offered to custom-frame one for our new office in return for one of his own. The finished framing is a beautiful combination of hand-sanded solid maple and conservation glass.
- To John Lightowler, who bought a poster and had Tom frame it for display at the historic Willamette General Store.
- To Mary Closson, West Linn Chamber Director, who has our poster sales flyer in the Chamber office, so that everyone who compliments her on the one above her desk can contact us to get one of their own.
- To West Linn Paper Company and Blue Heron Paper Company for running the announcement of our Feb.17th fundraiser in their company bulletins.
- To the Riverview Lions for their gracious invitation to attend their first February meeting to talk about our mill oral history project and to the Philanthropic Education Organization chapter in Happy Valley for asking Sandy to discuss our work on Willamette Falls Locks issues.
- To Blue Heron Paper Company for our great office space in Room 208, 427 Main Street, Oregon City, within view of our entire area of interest at the falls. (See it by appointment at this stage of the game, then office hours, TBD, in late-February, two days a week. Decorating assistance welcome.)
- To Jeff Davis, of Gleneden Beach, for the December donation of a nineteenth century hand-colored lithograph of "Oregon City on the Willamette." We're thrilled to take this into our tiny but growing collection. The print will be taken to a conservator for de-acidification and reframing, then hung in our office during 2007.

