



# Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Willamettefalls.org

Spring Newsletter

March 2015



*Photo courtesy of Sandy Carter, One Willamette River Coalition*

U.S. Congressman Kurt Schrader, former Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, Corps Colonel Aguilar, Metro planner Andy Cotugno, County Governmental Affairs Director Gary Schmidt, mill Manager Brian Konen, National Trust for Historic Preservation VP Barb Pahl and other invited guests and staff got a pre-tour orientation at Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks from Louis Landre, of the Portland District, US Army Corps of Engineers, at West Linn Paper Company Friday, January 23.

Congressman DeFazio and Senator Wyden are also scheduled for site visits this spring, as our Locks advocacy ramps up. See "Repair and Reopen", inside, for details .

## ***Repair and Reopen* become the passwords as public pressure on the Corps mounts in 2015.**

A growing number of local and regional governments, as well as the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, have passed formal Resolutions in support of the repair and reopening of the Willamette Falls Locks. The Resolutions, from Metro, Clackamas County, the Association of Oregon Counties, and the cities of Wilsonville, Oregon City, West Linn and Milwaukie, also support the creation of a State Task Force. All resolutions are being forwarded to the Portland District Corps of Engineers.

**Senator Devlin, Senator Olsen, Representatives Parrish and Representative Barton are Chief Sponsors of SB 131 to create just such a State Task Force, to bring together government agencies and advocates to find solutions for the repair and reopening of the Locks.** SB 131 passed unanimously from the Senate Business and Transportation Committee to Ways and Means with a "do pass" recommendation. In addition to the support from the governments listed above, Portland General Electric, the Oregon Concrete and Aggregate Producers Association, the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation supported the bill with live testimony before the Committee.

Since the Corps has admitted that closure caused adverse effects to

the historic Locks, **the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 process is now examining how the COE will minimize and mitigate those adverse effects, including its historic navigation functions.** We appreciate the involvement of the in-district staff of Congressman Schrader in this process, which legally requires the Corps to implement a Memorandum of Agreement. The Congressman toured the site with the Corps' Colonel Aguilar to investigate the physical issues at the locks firsthand.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation, the national Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, Metro, SHPO and Clackamas County are strong partners with the Foundation participating in this ongoing process. **The County has convened a Willamette Falls Locks Working Group, led by Commissioners Tootie Smith and Martha Schrader, to bring together local and regional leaders to advocate for the Locks.**

The Working Group, which meets monthly while SB 131 works its way through the legislative process, has developed a special appropriations request to Congress, and has directed a letter to the Colonel from the County indicating its desire to start conversations with the Corps about the steps needed to repair and reopen the Locks. For more info: 503-655-0649.

Meanwhile, Louis Landre, Corps manager of the Locks' 106 process, has been hitting the road with his **Locks history presentation** that drew a record number of history-lovers to

McMenamin's Old Church in Wilsonville in February. Landre will be doing the show again, by request, at Edgefield, on the evening of March 31.

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### *President's Message:*

--Carter: Grand Marshall of West Linn's 2015 Old Time Fair Parade--

In recognition of her tireless work and advocacy on the Willamette Falls Locks and the industrial heritage of the Falls area, Sandy Carter has been chosen to be the 2015 Grand Marshal of the West Linn Old Time Fair Parade. Sandy was recruited back in 1996 by Jody Carson, the founder of what eventually became the Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, to give her energy and vision for West Linn's industrial heritage. During the following near two decades of service, Sandy filled many of the Foundation's volunteer offices (including a short period as the paid part-time Executive Director) but continued on gratis as Executive Director for years thereafter.

Sandy was the sparkplug for many of the Foundation's accomplishments, including, but not limited to conceptualizing, funding and gathering a unique collection of West Linn paper mill oral history; instrumental in producing eight community Lock Fests to educate the public on West Linn's historic industrial district, hydropower firsts at the Falls and Locks funding issues; served as coordinator of the One Willamette River Coalition and its efforts to save and reopen the Locks, including enlisting and engaging the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (now Restore Oregon); and authored numerous industry focused publications, including "\$1.09 and Glad to Have It: Conversations with Seventeen Mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century Crown Zellerbach Millworkers"

Sandy continues her service to West Linn and dedication to the Foundation, writing the newsletter and contributing her talents toward fundraising and all Foundation activities. She also serves on the Board of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition and is a leading preservation voice for Industrial Heritage in the development of the Coalition's efforts to acquire National and State Heritage Area designations for the Falls Area. The Foundation is pleased that Sandy's tireless advocacy for the preservation of West Linn's industrial history and her efforts to keep the Locks open, and now to get them reopened, have been recognized in her selection as Grand Marshall. Please join us in congratulating her on this honor and plan to be in town when the parade and fair comes in July!

*Jim Mattis*

## 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 via  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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 \$1,000 to \$4,999 Gold Partner  \$5,000 and up Legacy Sponsor  \$\_\_\_\_\_ Corporate Sponsor  
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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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## Looking Back....

May 6<sup>th</sup> marks the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the US Army Corps of Engineers' purchase of Willamette Falls Locks and Canal. The importance of that day to Oregon and to the Pacific Northwest translated into thousands of visitors to Oregon City for the ceremonies, and many distinguished political guests. Let's celebrate their century of stewardship.

Many thanks to Lloyd Hill, of Hill Architects, in Willamette, who arranged for the scanning of several dozen odd-sized schematics of the Locks and falls area for us. We now have half of our collection's historic drawings and plans in digital format, for future availability on our website, funding permitting.

## Office Space Update

The Foundation now has hopes of collaborating with other local history groups in order to locate and share future office space, creating a new heritage synergy in West Linn and around the falls. To that end, a joint request to the City of West Linn suggests the historic

Police Station building, at the end of the Arch Bridge, as a perfect location for a 'heritage incubator.'"

## No Lock Fest this year

The Foundation has decided to focus on partner advocacy for the Locks in 2015, rather than a Lock Fest. Our Board energies will also be focused on a fundraising event, for operations and rent and funding for the completion of the Grindstones Project. A recent small grant from the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition is a wonderful start on that effort. to help, contact us at 503-650-9570.

## Join the festivities

In honor of the Locks, which inspired the parade theme, "A River Runs Through It", design a fun motorized or foot-powered entry into the West Linn Old Time Fair Parade July 18. Don't be intimidated: Calling many of the entries 'floats' is a gross misrepresentation. A decorated bike or a banner and boombox will do. ☺ Look for Larry McIntyre's Sternwheeler, and maybe a tugboat.