

WINTER  
2010

# Cultural Heritage

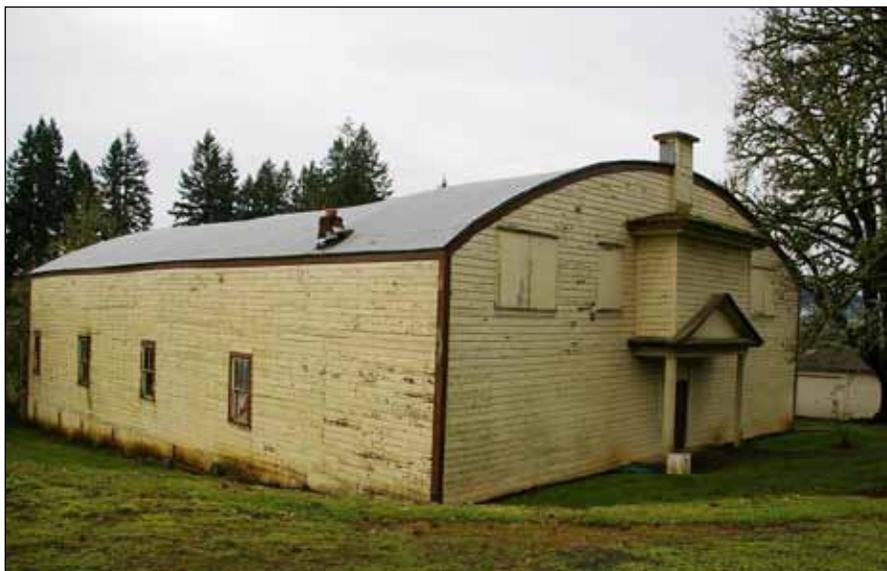
## C O U R I E R



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*The old school gym still stands in the Willamette Valley community of Bellfountain and was home court to the “Bells”—a 1937 championship basketball team. This site is among the “final four” special places that writer George Edmonston Jr. invites you to visit in this our last Courier issue for 2010.*

## Four More for the Road

*by George P. Edmonston Jr.*

**D**uring 2010, it has been my privilege to share with readers of the *Courier* some of my favorite stories from the history of the Willamette Valley.

I agreed to do a four-part series, spread out over four issues, and this is the final one. I think I've saved the best for last. When I remember back over the past 25 years of my travels up and down this beautiful valley, I've discovered a handful of places which have become my favorites. I thrill every time I visit them and as you read this article I think you'll see why.

As institutional memory fades, stories of places like these become lost to a lot of us, forgotten gems of the past waiting for rediscovery. So let's take to the roads and rediscover. We begin in locations that bookend the north and south boundaries of Benton County, starting with a little hamlet that gave us one of the greatest stories in the history of Oregon sports.

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## Main Street: A tale of two (Clackamas County!) cities

by Amy Koski, Main Street Molalla; Suzanne Hicks, Sandy Main Street; and Sheri Stuart, Oregon Main Street

From the moment Clackamas County learned the State of Oregon was re-instating the [Oregon Main Street program](#), they began developing a county-wide program that would allow every Clackamas County community to participate in and achieve downtown revitalization and economic vitality using the Main Street Approach®. Mirroring the Oregon Main Street (OMS) program, Clackamas County Main Street (CCMS) provides three levels of participation: Exploring Downtown, Transforming Downtown, and Performing Main Street. CCMS and OMS work in close collaboration and every community participating in CCMS is also part of the OMS network. With twelve participating communities, CCMS has a lot to be proud of. Read on to learn about a sampling of the efforts in two of the Transforming Downtown level communities: Molalla and Sandy.

Main Street Molalla officially started convening committees in Fall 2009 and started two promotional events simultaneously to run through the summer, reminding people to visit downtown and buy locally. These included the Molalla 2nd Friday event and the 3/50 Project.

The monthly 2nd Friday event brought the community together through cooperative business promotions and entertainment with a renewed focus on a walk-able downtown business district. Each month had a theme that coordinated with other local activities and standing community events such as Spring Fling in May, Relay for Life in June, Fourth of July, Hot August Nights with old cars, Back to School in September, and Apple Festival in October.

Combining the goals of each of these successful activities, the program launched a holiday shopping promotion—Holiday on Main Street—in which business offer in-store discounts and activities. Main Street Molalla has partnered with *Molalla Pioneer*, the local paper, to host a storefront decorating contest encouraging patrons to visits the stores and vote for the best holiday-themed storefront.

As a part of Molalla's nearly 30-year Apple Festival tradition, a one-time farmers' market was hosted by Main Street Molalla in the heart of downtown. It was a great way to connect with local farmers and provide access to fresh food while commemorating Apple Festival and the harvest season. The interest generated by this market has already led to discussions about a regular farmers' market next growing season and a partnership with a new farm loop that is in the process of being developed.

Vacancies can hurt the visual appeal and image of a downtown district, dissuading potential customers from visiting. In Molalla, the Design Committee created an innovative program to combat this issue by creating window displays in vacant storefronts to demonstrate the type of business that could work in each location. To date, the Committee has put together displays for an ice cream shop, a sewing shop, a pet store, a Molalla River outfitters store, and an apothecary. A display was also made available for home-based businesses and businesses not located in the central business district to display some of



*Among several other themed events, Main Street Molalla promoted downtown holiday shopping.*

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FOUR MORE FOR THE ROAD . . . continued from page 1

## Oregon's Hoosiers

You remember the movie *Hoosiers*, don't you? It's the story of a really small school in the middle-of-nowhere Indiana that wins the state basketball championship over schools 100 or more times its size.

Oregon has its own version of David versus Goliath, in a story that comes down to us from the year 1937. The place where much of it happened was in the small farming community of Bellfountain, near the town of Monroe in the southern end of Benton County. The team was known simply as the "Bells."

The school, and more importantly, the gym where it all took place, are still there for us to enjoy. You can get to them by going south from Corvallis on Highway 99W and turning west on Dawson Road until you arrive at the small village of Bellfountain. The school and gym will be on your left just before Dawson intersects with Bellfountain Road in the center of "town."

Basketball in 1937 was very different from the game played today. This was the era of the two-handed set shot and the requirement that the ball be jumped at center court after each basket. Games were low-scoring affairs, fouls done more gentlemanly.

State championships were also structured differently. The rules allowed the smallest schools a chance to compete with the biggest schools to win it all. The first step was to win the Class B tournament, which then allowed the B winner to compete against the bigger Class A schools in their bracket for the overall championship. In the history of the tournament, which dated back to 1920, no B had ever gone all the way against the A side.

In 1936 the Bells had come close, losing to eventual champion Corvallis and shocking everyone in the process. A year later they had virtually the same team back, under first-year Head Coach Burton "Bill" Lemmon. Still, the odds were against them. Bellfountain had 29 students in grades 9-12. The tallest player was 5-9. In their favor was the fact that the eight young men on the team had been playing together since they were in elementary school. By 1937, they were a well-oiled machine.

They breezed through the regular season at 17-1, losing only to defending state champion Corvallis by one point. They also defeated the Willamette University freshman team, not once but twice.

In the tournament, they took down Chiloquin 39-21 for the Class B title, then defeated Portland's Franklin High in the semifinals of the Class A bracket, 39-13. Now, only Lincoln High, also of Portland, separated them from the top prize. This they did with a 35-21 victory.

Between the 1937 season and the next, the rule was changed, forever separating schools into tournament brackets based on size.

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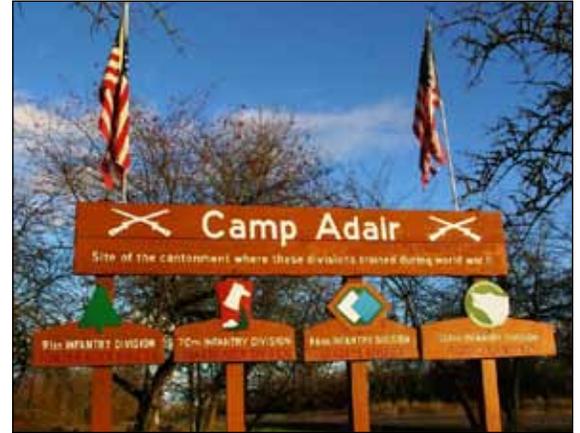
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## Soldier City

Just up the road from Lewisburg, about 12 miles north of Corvallis on U.S. 99W, a large promontory known as Coffin Butte marks the spot where a crossroads intersects the main highway.

Just to the east of this legendary butte, the skeletal remains of Camp Adair, a combat soldier's training facility of World War II vintage, awaits the visitor. To access the actual ground, look for the Pheasant Farm Road, which connects to 99W near a large sign commemorating the camp and its place in military history. Use it to travel the width of the camp, which would have been on both sides of road.

Officially known as a "cantonment," the camp was named for West Point graduate Henry Rodney Adair, a descendent of Oregon pioneers and the first Oregonian killed in the 1916 Mexican border disputes.



*When traveling to the Camp Adair memorial site just off of Highway 99W, north of Corvallis across from Coffin Butte, look for this sign, then go east about one-half mile.*



*The Oregon Travel Information Council (OTIC) designed and erected this historic marker in Benton County about Camp Adair—a World War II U.S. Army training facility—at a memorial site honoring soldiers who prepared there for significant battles of the war.*

From 1942 until the facility was closed in 1948, so many soldiers were housed here it became Oregon's second largest city. Today, the property is home to the E.E. Wilson Wildlife Refuge. A series of narrow, cracked asphalt roads that once served as the transportation grid for the giant camp, a building that was once a repair facility for tanks and trucks, and a few concrete foundations overgrown with weeds, are all that remain.

Before the war, the town of Wells occupied the location. Wells was a farming community founded in the 1840s and one that grew when the Southern Pacific Railroad's Red Electric train service arrived around the time of the First World War. In the process, the company renamed the town Wellsdale, so as not to be confused with Wells, Nevada.

Right after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Dec. 7, 1941, the U.S. Army purchased the property, brought in the bulldozers, rendered the town a casualty of the war, and announced the construction of the camp. Even the pioneer cemetery was relocated.

At its peak, Camp Adair was two miles wide, six miles long and contained 1,800 buildings. Approximately 60,000 soldiers in four Army divisions trained here. In order of arrival, they were the 96th or "Deadeye" Division, later to become heroes at the Battle of Okinawa in the Pacific; the 104th or "Timberwolf" Division, earning its claim to combat fame at the Battle of the Bulge; the 70th or "Trailblazer" Division, sometimes known as "Oregon's Own" and among the first Allied troops to push across the infamous Siegfried Line, one of Germany's

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MAIN STREET: A TALE OF TWO (CLACKAMAS COUNTY!) CITIES . . . continued from page 2

their products and services. As a result of these display opportunities, a local jewelry maker has since opened a storefront, expanding her product line, and moving into full-time production of her hand-made jewelry.

As soon as Main Street Molalla started, the Economic Restructuring Committee began working with Marketek on a retail market analysis through a grant from Clackamas County Main Street. The Committee conducted business owner and shopper surveys and has since held several meetings to share the findings with business owners. One clear desire expressed in the survey by more than 65 percent of respondents was for a family-friendly steakhouse/grill. The Committee convened a meeting with restaurant owners and managers as well as suppliers in the Molalla area to discuss the findings. Through this meeting, it was determined that several restaurants already serve beef steak sourced locally and to date, two existing restaurants have expanded their promotions to include this information.

“Need Space? We Got It!” this is the message displayed in vacant property windows throughout downtown Sandy. In an effort to spruce up some of their empty spaces, Sandy Main Street initiated their own spin on a vacant property display program. Willing property owners allow artists and local businesses to display wares to help add to the streetscape experience. Sandy Main Street provides signage to direct prospective tenants to their website for a complete listing of available spaces. To further assist with enhancing the visual appeal of downtown, the City of Sandy created a façade improvement program funded with Urban Renewal dollars. Two types of assistance are provided: Matching Grants and Master Plan funding. The matching grant program provides funds for projects initiated by business or property owners. Thirteen grants, awarded on a sliding scale, have been funded. A total of \$163,000 of grant funding has leveraged a total of \$281,000 of private investment.

The “Master Plan” is a comprehensive city initiated façade improvement project. The city started by evaluating all the buildings in the downtown on Pioneer and Proctor Boulevards. An architect was hired by the city to develop façade improvement plans. The Master Plan will be implemented over a period of 3 to 5 years. The first year projects were selected based on the positive impact each would have on the overall look of Downtown Sandy. The selected buildings are in highly visible locations in the downtown such as the east and west entrances and main intersections. The city met with the owners of each building and engaged them in the design development process. Easements were given to the city to allow the construction, and to protect the work from being changed for a period of seven years. The city was able to leverage private investment in the projects including cash and in-kind contributions such as landscaping. The contract was awarded to a single general contractor. Planning Director Tracy Brown was the project manager. As of November 2010, the final punch list items are being completed for a total of 11 projects representing \$350,000 of public/private investment.



*circa 1920*



*Before*



*After*

*Before and after images of the historic Cannon Hardware Building in Sandy, one of the city's Master Plan/Façade Improvement projects.*

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MAIN STREET: A TALE OF TWO (CLACKAMAS COUNTY!) CITIES . . . continued from page 5

In addition to the physical changes taking place in downtown Sandy, the program has created two new successful events starting with the Sandy Main Street Trick-or-Treat Trail in October of 2009 and 2010's new First Friday event to engage community residents and others in downtown. In it's first year, the Sandy Main Street Trick-or-Treat Trail had 47 downtown businesses and over 200 trick-or-treaters participating. This year, the event grew to include 60 downtown businesses and over 300 trick-or-treaters despite the downpour in Sandy that day.

First Friday was kicked off in April and ran through October with the goal of bringing people into the downtown for a night of entertainment. It featured extended shopping hours on the first Friday of every month with in-store sales, and special events including art receptions, live music, open mike nights, and tastings. Most of the participating businesses were restaurants and retail. Sandy Area Chamber of Commerce and Sandy Public Library were also participants.

## Oregon Main Street Conference

by Sheri Stewart, Oregon Main Street coordinator

This year's Oregon Main Street Conference brought together a record audience of over 240 participants from downtown revitalization organizations, local government representatives, downtown business and property owners, and others with an interest in historic commercial district revitalization. Downtown Albany was the perfect venue with sessions split between the Albany Civic Theater, the Flinn Block, and the Venetian Theater demonstrating historic buildings are both viable and add interest for hosting events of this type. The conference got started with an energizing keynote featuring Jon Schallert, a nationally recognized speaker, who talked about how downtowns and businesses can re-invent themselves to stay competitive during these challenging economic times. This is an important message for our Oregon communities as they work towards maintaining and enhancing the economic vitality of downtown while preserving the community's historic resources. A highlight of the conference was the first "Excellence in Downtown Revitalization" awards program. First Lady Mary Oberst and Oregon Main Street's first coordinator, Gary Van Huffel, were on hand to present the 10 awards and two certificates of appreciation recognizing outstanding achievements in design, organizational development, special events, and individuals involved in downtown revitalization efforts. It was inspiring to bring together people from across the state to learn, to network, and to get rejuvenated to go back home to continue the amazing work volunteers and staff are undertaking to preserve the "heart and soul" of their communities—downtown!



*The 2010 Oregon Main Street conference was held in Albany where participants learned about a variety of economic development strategies and enjoyed a sunny walking tour of this Willamette Valley city's historic downtown.*

## An overview of five historic places listed in the National Register during 2010

by Cara Kaser and Ian Johnson, Oregon National Register coordinators

The National Register of Historic Places program was busy over the last year with several notable properties around the state being listed.

Over 1,900 properties in all 36 counties are now listed in the register in Oregon, including 120 Historic Districts containing an additional 12,000 buildings within their boundaries. In 2010, the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reviewed an additional 20 properties across the state, representing many facets of Oregon's history. Here are 5 historic sites that were listed this year.

### Egyptian Theatre, Coos Bay, Coos Co.

The Egyptian Theatre was listed in the National Register on May 24. Originally constructed in 1922 as the Motor Inn Garage and Service Station due to building restrictions in place after World War I, the building was transformed into the Egyptian Theatre after federal building restrictions were lifted. The theatre is historically unique in the preservation of its original décor in the Egyptian Revival style designed by architect Lee Arden Thomas and artist Carl F. Berg. The building still operates as a movie theatre today.



### Owyhee Dam Historic District, Adrian vcty, Malheur Co.

The Owyhee Dam Historic District was listed in the National Register of September 23. Designed and constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation beginning in 1927, the Owyhee Dam Historic District consists of the Owyhee Dam and several dozen buildings and structures associated with the dam that were built between 1927 and 1933. The district is important



for its historic association with irrigated agriculture in eastern Oregon and western Idaho as part of the larger Owyhee Project, and is also nationally significant for the design and construction of the Owyhee Dam, which served as a testing grounds for new dam technology and engineering. New technology first used in the Owyhee Dam later served in other Bureau of Reclamation projects, including Hoover Dam.

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FOUR MORE FOR THE ROAD . . . continued from page 4

last stands of the war; and the 91st or “Let Her Buck” Division, which would play a key role in the liberation of the city of Rome.

In the waning years of the war, Adair’s medical community helped convalesce the wounded returning from the Pacific. Up to 3,600 could be cared for at one time. Also, though few locales knew it, Camp Adair housed POWs from Germany and Italy until 1946.

Three of the divisions produced eight Medal of Honor recipients. About the rain that never seemed to end, the troops often referred to the cantonment as “Swamp Adair.”

### George Mitchell and the Holy Rollers

Newberg’s Friends Cemetery. George Mitchell is buried here, the subject of the most interesting story I have ever encountered in the years I have studied and visited the cemeteries of the valley.

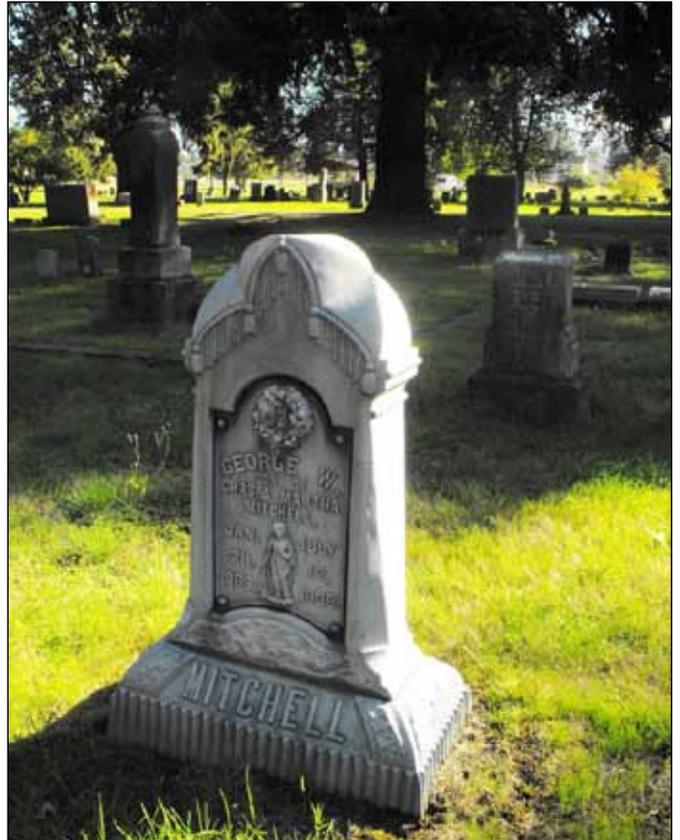
Mitchell was a young 23-year old mill worker from Portland who murdered Oregon cult leader Franz Edmund Creffield on the streets of Seattle in May, 1906. Weeks later, the young lad would lose his own life in the same violent way, the tragic end to a three-year chain of events so bizarre it borders on melodrama.

Nothing on his gravestone suggests his notoriety. Mitchell’s rise to celebrity began with the arrival of Creffield in Corvallis in the fall of 1902. Thirty-two years old, smooth-shaven, short of stature, and with a noticeable German accent, Creffield sold newspapers for a time on the street corners of the small town for the Salvation Army.

His disruptive behavior at Salvation Army meetings soon had him discharged from attending, so he moved for a time to the local countryside. But not for long. He returned a transformed man, complete with long beard, a voice booming like an Old Testament prophet and lots of wild-eyed charisma. He was Creffield no-more, having changed his name to Joshua the Second, the self-appointed leader of what would later be called the Church of the Bride of Christ.

In two months, the new church managed to attract about two dozen followers, mostly women. Meetings could be heard from blocks away, as shouting, moaning and rolling on the floor became an integral part of the gatherings. Not surprisingly, rumors began to circulate about the noise, of animal sacrifices and followers forced to perform bizarre sexual acts.

What is certain is that Creffield’s preaching now began to center on a command he had received, or so he said, from the Almighty Himself: Joshua was to select from among his female followers the one who was to become the mother of the Second Messiah.



*The final resting place of one George Mitchell in the Friends Cemetery of Newburg, who died quite tragically—just one of the victims in a bizarre Willamette Valley story that rivals anything Hollywood scriptwriters could concoct.*

AN OVERVIEW OF FIVE HISTORIC PLACES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DURING 2010 . . . continued from page 7

### Santiam Wagon Road, Linn Co. and Deschutes Co.

The Santiam Wagon Road was listed in the National Register on September 23. Officially opened in 1866, the Santiam Wagon Road helped connect Oregon's two disparate sections, the Willamette Valley in the west and the Deschutes River Basin in the east, by providing a primary means of transportation across the central Cascade Mountains from the mid-nineteenth through early twentieth centuries. The road also helped contribute to the economic development on both the east and west sides by providing a more reliable route to facilitate trade, commerce, and communication, and shaped settlement patterns of central Oregon, as former Willamette Valley residents made the journey east to establish new homes, ranches, farms, and businesses.



### Irvington Historic District, Portland, Multnomah Co.

After a years-long grass-roots neighborhood effort, the Irvington Historic District in Portland was recognized, becoming the state's largest residential historic district. The Irvington area grew as streetcar lines were extended from downtown Portland to the suburban eastside of the Willamette River. To control land uses and guide residential development in this rapidly growing community, developers used privately-imposed and -enforced covenants. Similar explicit rules were later adopted in other areas, serving as a prelude to the advent of comprehensive land-use planning in early-twentieth century Portland. The district is also notable for the collection of architecturally-important residences constructed between 1891 and

1948, including the work of At least 23 prominent architects, including Ellis Lawrence and Joseph Jacobberger.

### The Big 'O' Eugene, Lane Co.

A University of Oregon Graduate Student was the force behind nomination the "Big O" on Eugene's Skinner Butte. The steel letter was built in 1958 by university students as an expression of school spirit, and its construction was part of a long tradition of maintaining a hill-side letter in that location. In addition to serving as the focus for annual ritualized maintenance and celebrations, the letter was frequently targeted by other schools and repainted in rival colors. More determined individuals used dynamite to blast previous concrete "Os" off the hill in the early 20th century. Wooden letters constructed in the 1940s and early 50s were less likely to send debris over downtown if blasted, but proved to be a flammable target. As a final solution, fire and blast-resistant sheet steel was chosen as a superior alternative by those who organized the construction of the 1958 'O.'



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## The status of Oregon's heritage; vitality report soon to be released

by Kyle Jansson, Heritage Commission coordinator

As 2009 began and Oregon started a year-long celebration of its 150 years of statehood, heritage organizations anticipated the year would be a boom year. After all, the state's 100th birthday had resulted in new interest in the state's history.

Instead, the sesquicentennial proved a continuation of recent tough years. While attendance was up at many museums and historic sites, nearly two-thirds of surveyed museums reported implementing cost-saving measures in 2009 or in the previous two years.

Public funding of heritage activities continued to slide, and private funds were harder to raise in the economic downturn. Some sites reduced or even eliminated operations. In July 2009, the Oregon Heritage Commission (OHC), met in Prineville, near the geographic center of the state. Commissioners said they wanted to stimulate solutions to both immediate and long-term challenges. The best way to begin, they said, was to gather information about the current status and stimulate interest and support for potential solutions.

The Heritage Vitality Report, due to be released in the next few weeks, describes major issues confronting Oregon heritage organizations and businesses, as well as some of the projects and organizations underway to solve them.

For example, in two counties, voters decided this fall to use tax funds to support historical societies during the next few years. A collaborative effort by the statewide library, museum and archives organizations will soon result in a preservation plan that more efficiently uses many existing resources. In dozens of towns and cities, heritage organizations are working with economic development interests to revitalize longtime commercial districts.

This precedent-setting report looks at the status of eight major heritage issues. Some of those issues are internal heritage issues, while others are the result of outside factors, including national trends. Commission staff used surveys, interviews and statistics to identify the issues and to describe their status. Comments made at this past spring's Oregon Heritage Regional Roundups also influence the report.

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### EIGHT KEY CULTURAL HERITAGE ISSUES

*Oregon's cultural heritage is a blessing and a responsibility of the present that will inspire great deeds in the future. It is a significant factor, often unmeasured, in the economic, educational and vitality of Oregon's communities. It typically is a public-private partnership in communities with no single agency or organization responsible for its conservation and development.*

*While these heritage efforts have survived for decades and in some cases for centuries, new challenges threaten Oregon heritage as the second decade of the 21st century begins.*

**Issue One:** *Unstable and inadequate government and private funding.*

**Issue Two:** *Minimal amounts of meaningful coordination and collaboration among heritage organizations and their communities.*

**Issue Three:** *The inability to measure and articulate the economic value of Oregon heritage.*

**Issue Four:** *Changing educational requirements that have reduced the time and respect given history instruction in primary, secondary and higher education.*

**Issue Five:** *Shortage of people with the skills and knowledge to address issues of preservation, fund raising, leadership and technology.*

**Issue Six:** *The changing population demographics and generational expectations, including developing new leadership.*

**Issue Seven:** *Limited use of 21st century marketing, communications and advocacy strategies.*

**Issue Eight:** *The uneven development of technology by heritage organizations has left many – old and young, rural and urban – feeling disenfranchised.*

THE STATUS OF OREGON'S HERITAGE; VITALITY REPORT SOON TO BE RELEASED . . . continued from page 10

The OHC hopes that the facts and concerns unearthed in this process will stimulate discussion that results in strengthening the bonds of Oregonians to their heritage and its relevance to their daily lives as well as giving direction to heritage efforts around the state.

In Oregon and other states, the different sectors underneath the heritage umbrella typically operate within their own sectors. They are aware of each other and use each other's resources, but typically do not co-develop programming or solve problems together.

This report, however, looks at all of the heritage sectors comprehensively, with the greatest emphasis on museums, historic preservation, historic cemeteries, historical societies, local government planning, archives, and archaeology. It seeks to identify and understand the challenges facing sectors individually and collectively so that comprehensive solutions can be found.

Heritage Commission members have reviewed the report, and adopted four recommendations on which they expect the Oregon heritage community will focus efforts during the next few years.

## Oregon Heritage Commission recommends four revitalization goals

The Oregon Heritage Commission recommends that individuals, businesses and organizations focus their efforts to revitalize Oregon heritage resources by focusing on four goals:

- 1. Request that the 2011 Legislature appoint an interim task force to examine state and county financial support for Oregon heritage organizations, and to develop solutions that provide adequate and stable resources.*
- 2. Determine the economic and cultural value of heritage to Oregon, including its direct and secondary impacts.*
- 3. Strategically communicate consistent information about the value and importance of heritage to the economy and daily lives of Oregonians.*
- 4. Increase the capacity of heritage organizations and businesses to collaboratively expand their leadership, development, preservation, community-building, communications, educational offerings, and technology.*

The Oregon Heritage Commission urges all Oregonians who value the significance of heritage in their daily lives and the importance of heritage to their communities and state to support these four goals and work on their behalf.

## Oregon Commission on Historic Cemeteries (OCHC) responds to Heritage Vitality Assessment

*by Kuri Gill, Historic Cemeteries/CLG programs coordinator*

The OCHC enthusiastically participated with the Oregon Heritage Commission's vitality assessment process. With results in hand, the commission based its current workplan on addressing the needs conveyed by historic cemetery proponents who participated.

Issues that surfaced largely matched those of other heritage organizations — technical assistance, longevity of the organization and funding. Workshops and online resources to address these concerns will be designed and coordinated with efforts of the Heritage Programs division of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. OCHC will continue to offer the Historic Cemeteries Grant program. The program is a great success in preserving historic cemeteries and engaging local communities. Cemeteries raised \$128,378 in match funds for the 2009-2010 grant cycles.

In addition to the technical services, OCHC is encouraging Oregonians to view historic cemeteries as cultural and natural resources, beyond the singular traditional purpose of cemeteries. Historic cemeteries are a primary historical record of the community, a glimmer of artistic and cultural aesthetic and peaceful retreat into nature. In some cases, these historic cemeteries are a refuge for native plant and animal species. OCHC encourages communities to incorporate their historic cemeteries into cultural and natural resource activities and plans. The Commission will kick off that effort by inviting John Bry, an economic development and tourism expert and former Main Street coordinator, to speak at the Oregon Heritage Conference, April 8 in Astoria. He will discuss incorporation of historic cemeteries in local economic development.

## Certified Local Government (CLG) program celebrates local partners

The CLG program would like to thank all of Oregon's CLG for their efforts for preservation. Thirty-seven communities throughout Oregon have made a commitment to preservation and it is at the local level where the benefits can truly be seen.

These counties and cities are engaging with property owners, offering incentives and protecting some of Oregon's most valuable historic resources. The CLGs recognize the economic value their communities' historic properties. By embracing the unique character of their communities, they can enhance the livability, both culturally and economically. Many of these CLGs are participating closely with the Oregon Main Street program to take this concept even further.

Several creative programs included rehabilitation grant programs, building design support, exhibits, newsletters, historic house and repair classes. These great efforts are encouraging other communities to make the commitment to preservation.

## ABCs of weatherizing historic windows

by Joy Sears, Restoration Specialist, State Historic Preservation Office

Winter has definitely arrived and I imagine that most all of us are snuggling into the heated comfort of our homes. But are you still dealing with drafts of cold air? If you listen to all the talk about weatherizing windows you might begin to think that actually replacing all your windows will eliminate most if not all these draft problems and save big money in the process. That may indeed solve heat loss or air infiltration problems; however, such a solution tends to be rather expensive. And, more importantly, it simply may not be necessary in many cases when dealing with historic wood windows in old houses or buildings.

Weatherizing your existing historic windows can give replacement windows a run for their money by concentrating on the main two problems: air infiltration and heat loss. Take a look at several ways you can eliminate or better control these problems:

- Cracked glass – Replace now or temporarily seal with clear packing tape.
- Glazing putty – Are there sections missing or gaps? Re-glaze if possible or use caulking to cover gaps until spring. Note: If you use removable caulking now, you won't be bothered by removing it when doing repairs in the future.
- Working hardware – Sash locks are meant to be tight to prevent air getting in.
- Covering or filling the rope and pulley opening – Get specially made covers or use foam or fabric to plug the holes.
- Weather-stripping – Needed wherever your sashes are not tight fitting. There are many varieties on the market from permanent metal to peel/stick foam.
- Exterior caulking – Needed around the frame of the windows where gaps exist when meeting siding or other building materials.

Once you have the above issues taken care of, your next step is installation of storm windows of some type, either interior or exterior. Either choice can certainly cut down on air infiltration and heat loss, and usually you'll feel a dramatic difference. While interior storm windows are convenient to install and clean, they are not protecting the exterior of your windows from the elements of winter. Since colonial days when shutters were closed when needed to protect the windows, exterior storm windows allow us the additional advantage of still being able to see out.

All the various types of storm windows have their advantages and disadvantages but the bottom line is that storm windows are much less expensive on average than custom replacement windows.

Feel free to contact me at [Joy.Sears@state.or.us](mailto:Joy.Sears@state.or.us) or 503-986-0688 for information on weather-stripping, storm windows, and other specific questions about rehabilitation and restoration of historic houses and buildings.

### Also, check out these online resources:

<http://lagreenoldhouse.blogspot.com/2010/12/old-windows-replace-or-restore-hot.html>

[http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=25935](http://www.ohp.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=25935)

<http://www.preservationnation.org/issues/savethewindows/>

<http://www.windowrenew.com/main/default.asp>

<http://www.houseinprogress.net/archives/001507.html>

<http://historichomeworks.com/forum/viewtopic.php?p=6271#6271>

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For the selection process, he would need more privacy. He moved his followers south of Corvallis to the Willamette River's Kiger Island. Among the most devout who went along were Donna and Esther Mitchell, George's sisters.

Rumors continued, to the point where the locals decided to rid themselves of this religious menace once and for all. Tared and feathered and forced to leave Benton County, Creffield eventually found his way to Portland. There, he was accused of adultery by a former cult member named Burgess Starr. The woman in question? Donna, Burgess' wife and George's sister. Creffield was found guilty and sent to prison for 15 months. During his incarceration, he wrote letters to Esther Mitchell, in which he attempted to convince her that she was to be the one to bring forth the new Messiah.

Right after being forced to leave the Corvallis area, Creffield had married one of his followers, Maud Hurt. Released from prison, Joshua and Maud now headed for Seattle, to raise money and recruit new converts. Creffield was bolstered by the fact that in April he had predicted the great San Francisco Earthquake one day before it happened.

Following just behind them was Mitchell, who, on May 7, 1906, saw the prophet and Maud in front of the Quick Drug Store in Seattle's Pioneer Square District. Walking up behind Joshua, he stuck a 32-caliber pistol to his head and blew him to eternity. Then, the young lad turned himself over to a nearby policeman.

Wealthy businessmen and Corvallis residents rushed to Mitchell's aid. Enough money was raised to put together a powerful team of lawyers, who proceeded over the next several months to convince the jury that the shooting was nothing more than justifiable homicide. Readers from around the West couldn't get enough of the juicy story. George Mitchell was found not guilty.

Esther was at the trial. Two days after her brother's acquittal, July 15, as the young man walked through the King Street Train Station to board the train that would take him home, Esther came up behind him. She had a gun and did to her brother what he had done to Joshua.

Maud Creffield admitted to buying the weapon Esther used. She was arrested for conspiracy and sent to jail. Two weeks later, in her cell, she committed suicide.

Esther was also arrested, sent to an asylum, recovered, married, then also took her own life.

On July 17, a huge crowd met George Mitchell as his body was delivered by train to the depot near downtown Newberg. A large funeral procession made its way to a donated plot in Friends Cemetery, where he was laid to rest in the eternal sleep of death.

The cemetery is located at the end of S. Everest Road, which is just across from Walgreen's Drugs near the intersection of where state highway 219 splits off from 99W.

## Paul and Evelyn's UFO

On the evening of May 11, 1950, Paul and Evelyn Trent saw something extraordinary from the backyard of their farm home just outside Sheridan.

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If you want to go where they were that fateful night, travel toward the coast from McMinnville on Highway 18, turn left on Christensen Road, which sits between the small community of Bellevue and the Sheridan exit, stop in front of the first house on the right (or last house on the left if you're coming from the other direction) and look back toward the west. Right up there in that piece of sky, just above the trees and the outline of the distant hills, was where the couple saw one of most storied UFOs in the history of stories about UFOs.

At about 7 p.m., there suddenly appeared in the sky a metallic, saucer-shaped object a short distance to the west of their property. Paul rushed to get his Kodak camera and managed to snap two photos of the gray-colored disc before it disappeared. In the annals of ufology, these are the first photographs ever taken of what was known at that time as a "flying saucer." After decades of scrutiny, examination and computer analysis, many believe these pictures to be genuine images of the real thing.

What happened in the subsequent weeks and months after the sighting is a long and complicated story. But a summary of the details reveals clues that experts point to when debunking any claims these down-to-earth farmers had somehow engineered a hoax.

At no time, they say, did the couple behave like publicity-seekers, usually a dead giveaway that something isn't right. If anything, they remained reluctant to get too deeply involved in the incident. The only reward they ever received was the hassle that comes when individual privacy suddenly becomes public property.

The two images taken were part of a roll of film the Trents had been working on for a long time. They finished it on Mother's Day three days later. Sometime the following week, the film was taken to McMinnville for processing. Another week went by before the prints were ready. Even then, Paul and Evelyn only showed them family and close friends.

One of these was the boyfriend of a niece. He was home on leave with the Army and took an immediate interest in the photos, suggesting they be taken to a McMinnville banker named Frank Wortman. Seeing the photos, Wortman called Phil Bladine of the McMinnville *Telephone-Register* newspaper.

On June 8, a month after the sighting, the paper ran a front-page story of the sighting, with the two Trent photos prominently displayed. This took journalistic courage because no newspaper anywhere in the world had ever published a [photo of a flying saucer](#).

The story went global. It was picked up by the International News Service and then *Life Magazine*. Television appearances followed. For a time, the Trents were as popular as movie stars.

The government got involved, including the FBI. Life for the Trents became complicated. As late as 1967, Air Force investigators were on their property asking questions and taking readings with gieger counters. There was also a visit by "two detectives" who showed up one afternoon and spent several hours spreading out everything in the house.

After several years, government interest began to wane, but media interest continues to this day. The *UFO Phenomenon*, published by *Time Life Books* in 1987, remains one of the best. Ground Saucer Watch, Inc., a group devoted to the scientific study of UFOs, and using edge enhancement and color contouring to check the Trent photos for wires and other hoax-type evidence, told *Time-Life* that the simplest interpretation of the photographs "confirms precisely what the witnesses say they saw."

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The sighting has also spanned an annual UFO festival for the city of McMinnville, soon to be in its 12th year and second largest gathering of its kind in the country.

By the 1990s, the Trents had long ago sold their farm and had moved to the city of McMinnville, where they rented a small apartment and lived on a combined social security income of \$675 a month. They did not give interviews. Evelyn died in 1997, Paul a year later.

George Edmonston Jr. is the retired editor of the *Oregon Stater*, the alumni magazine of Oregon State University. He currently serves as history and traditions editor for the magazine, and has published hundreds of articles sharing Oregon's fascinating history in area newspapers, magazines and on websites.

### Further reading:

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AN OVERVIEW OF FIVE HISTORIC PLACES LISTED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER DURING 2010 . . . continued from page 9

The SHPO looks forward to seeing more historic places listed in the National Register in 2011. Anticipated listings in the next year include a World War II patrol boat, a residential historic district in Forest Grove, the historic McKenzie Highway, an armory in Klamath Falls, and many more. If you are interested in listing a property in the National Register, contact Tracy Zeller at 503-986-0690.

Also in 2010 during September and October, National Register staff offered courses on such topics as understanding the basics of the National Register, how to fill out the National Register nomination form, listing historic districts, and creating Multiple Property Documents. Courses were free, open to the public, and offered in a 90-minute webinar format so that participants could receive training conveniently at their home or office. Six webinars were offered and over 40 people – from historic preservation professionals to homeowners – participated. Webinar presentations are available for download at [www.oregonheritage.org](http://www.oregonheritage.org) on the National Register webpage. The National Register webinars will be offered again in Spring 2011.