



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

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Spring 2007

A tide of support pushes Locks planning

Thanks to our continuing advocacy and some pretty powerful cooperation in the Oregon Solutions Locks working groups, great progress is being made towards finding a stable fiscal home for the locks for their next seven years of Corps of Engineers operations.

OS contributions channeled through the foundation have paid for a comprehensive re-nomination of the locks to the National Register of Historic Places. The re-nomination, written by George Kramer, respected Ashland historic preservation consultant, has been reviewed by our board and by the State Office of Historic Preservation and will be ruled on by the State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation on June 8th at that group's quarterly meeting. It will be our great pleasure to host that meeting at Blue Heron Paper Company and to work with state staff to organize a local history field walk, perhaps to see the locks in person and tour the T.W. Sullivan Hydroelectric plant.

An engineering study of the locks, funded by a sub-coalition of OS contributors, was launched in April by INCA engineering, of Seattle, and should also be completed in early June. And thanks to the advocacy of OS member Linda Bell, of the Clackamas County Tourism Development Commission, a \$5,000 grant from Travel Oregon is assisting yet another OS subgroup with urgent marketing needs. Linda is leading that committee.



Sandy Carter flanked by Jim Mahar (L.), Bonneville Lock and Dam manager, and Colonel Thomas O'Donovan, head of the Portland District Corps of Engineers, before OS signing at 2006 Lock Fest.

With stronger paperwork to document their heritage importance and a clear handle on future capital needs, as well as a concise pitch for their preservation and stewardship, the locks will be a huge step closer to funding stability. The OS Steering Committee aims to have another Declaration of Cooperation ready for signing by all partners at the September 22 Lock Fest.

With its move to the first day of fall, this year's event should benefit from nicer weather, a clearer river, and some very welcome sponsorship, including the portion of the 2006 ODOT Transportation Enhancement grant that was set aside for interpretation and education.

Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation has also received a \$2,000 tourism grant for Lock Fest, through West Linn Chamber's annual distribution of TDC's county room taxes. And Portland General Electric Company—an important Oregon Solutions partner—has agreed to contribute \$2,000 towards making the 2007 the best of all.

With funds identified and the aging locks physically stabilized, their future recreational and commercial users (including increased barging, growing heritage tourism and recreational boating demands) will be safe at last from the threat of permanent closure. Opening day of this boating season at the Willamette Falls Navigation Lock and Canal will be Thursday, May 11. The locks will again be open through the end of September, on a five-day-a-week schedule, thanks to the work of our Oregon Solutions team.



West Linn Mayor Norm King and Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris, OS taskforce members, at 2006 event. They now jointly lead a falls-area master-planning coalition begun last winter.



Tom and Bill Bernert, Lock Fest 2006 visitors, whose family business is a significant OS supporter.

Of great importance to our progress...

- A skilled volunteer with non-profit experience to train Sandy on QuickBooks Pro 2007 and help with setting up our new general ledger for automated grant tracking and reporting.
- A web genius willing to work for free (or a sponsor) in the coming year to help us maximize the potential of our growing, open-source website.
- A detail-oriented volunteer who can donate three or four hours to work on our Access database and mailing lists.

Converting our movie for direct educational uses

Thanks to money raised at the premiere, the documentary is now available in a 'chaptered' format, for ease of use in a classroom setting. We are pursuing a grant for development of the accompanying interpretive print materials needed to make it an inviting local history/social studies curriculum module, ready to use to cast light on the changes in the American and Oregon workplace and to bring life to our history classes.

Director's Message

May is History Month

May has long been the month set aside nationally to celebrate heritage, with a capital "H." In West Linn and other cities it's just a matter of how. Our ideas this year include: scheduled speaking appearances, at the Rotary and at Mary's Woods, to tout our industrial firsts and our wonderful millwork movie; a public picnic at the locks, to celebrate its spring opening; and finding some 'History Ambassadors' to be available on most May weekends at the 99E Willamette Falls Overlook, offering information about the important Oregon history that sprawls unrecognized around the falls.

Board member and map-maker Roger Shepherd is working up a flyer to hand out on what we hope will be sunny weekend days. Founder and West Linn City Councilor Jody Carson and other board members are signing up for shifts, and we're all pretty excited about providing—at least on weekends in May—the exciting historical context about the falls that is

sorely missing there now. We think people would like to know what they're looking at when they pull out and take in that magnificent view.

City Councils in West Linn and Oregon City will proclaim our fondness for history. The Board of County Commissioners will hear from us and other small heritage organizations on May 3 about the exciting economic possibilities and the cultural relevance of heritage tourism. We've joined the Northwest Oral History Association and are going to Pendleton for the Oregon Heritage Conference the first weekend in May.

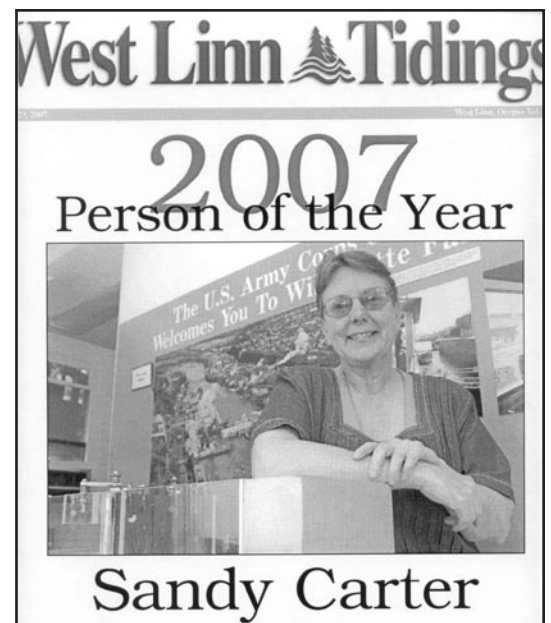
I hope that you, as individuals and as families, will also take time out to slow down and indulge in a look backward—to seek out some new experience or piece of information that reveals how we came to be the West Linn or Oregon City of 2007. Think about how few of our neighbors around the falls today are aware of the importance of our locks, mills and power stations in the history of Portland and of our State, and spread the word. That's what May is all about.

Presenting... West Linn's "Person of the Year"

The boisterous crowd grew quiet February 23 at Tualatin Country Club when West Linn Tidings' publisher Brian Monihan entered the spotlight and began to describe his choice for West Linn's 2007 "Person of the Year." The packed house at the Chamber's "Main Event" dinner and auction quit its table-chatter and curiosity turned to recognition as he outlined the person's work to increase public awareness of the importance of West Linn history.

By the time he was done, all heads had turned to watch Sandy Carter rise, beaming, and make her way to the microphone through a standing, applauding crowd. "This recognition of my work to increase awareness of West Linn history is so very gratifying," said Carter in her acceptance comments. "The Willamette Historic District has had the right idea all along, and now people are recognizing the rest of our heritage.

This reinforces my determination to build on our momentum and to enlist even more of you in helping us preserve our wonderful stories and the other historic resources at Willamette Falls."



Crown Zellerbach premiere draws appreciative crowd

With Don Pendergraft's long-silent mill whistle greeting them from its display case at the door, scores of local history fans and volunteers showed up February 17 at West Linn High School's new auditorium for the foundation's first fundraising event. Sitting together in the dark, they watched 17 mill workers tell compelling stories that epitomize how people supported their families and built a good life in West Linn after World War II.

Thanks to the hard work of key volunteers Diane Andrikopoulos and Sherri Burch, and the sponsorship of West Linn High School, West Linn Paper Company, West Linn Copy Center, West Linn Tidings, West Linn Market of Choice, Paul Toole's State Farm Insurance, West Linn Safeway, Bolton Starbucks, West Linn Bales Thriftway and Costco Foods, the happy crowd enjoyed appetizers at intermission while they traded memories and reactions to "Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips..." our thought-provoking oral history documentary.



Board member Alma Coston works with movie-goers to identify former coworkers in CZ photo from the '60s.



Sandy Carter, right, enjoys the fruits of her efforts at the premiere showing of "Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips..."

The two-hour movie is slated to be shown as a foundation fundraiser at the Tualatin Heritage Center from 2-5 on June 24 and at the Lake Oswego Heritage House on Sunday, October 21. It is also running on Sunday nights on OPB's Oregon Channel and on the Clackamas County Government Cable in late April. "Grindstones..." is the first production created from our more than 30 hours of archived interviews with CZ employees and retirees.

We gratefully announce the April award of another grant from The Kinsman Foundation for editing four more video sequences that will complete our overview of the nearly six decades of Crown Zellerbach's influence on West Linn's life and economy.

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

Industry & Arts

Sullivan Art Jam date nears

Lisa Wilcox, Sandy Carter, Dean Walch and Deb Schallert wore hard hats for their meeting in West Linn in March, and agreed on the game plan for an exciting invitation-only, pre-juried art event at the TW Sullivan Hydropower plant May 21-22.

The T.W. Sullivan Art Jam is the first of a proposed series of plein-air art events designed to create a collection of art focused on industrial subjects near the falls. The jam will produce art to be displayed at the West Linn Library Gallery throughout the month of September, as an awareness-raising Lock Fest pre-event and a wonderful art 'happening' in its own right.

The Art Jam is partially supported by a \$500 grant from the West Linn Arts Commission and we hope other sponsors will step forward to help facilitate a high-quality catalog and virtual gallery of the resulting show.

The Grindstone Project

Thanks to an idea of Sandy Carter's, and the generosity of the West Linn Paper Company, the City of West Linn may be looking at an innovative public art collaboration for our town's

"Oregon 150" celebration in 2009. "Oregon 150" is the state's brand name for its upcoming sesquicentennial celebration. Organizers at the state level are encouraging cities to create their own local heritage events to complement state-sponsored celebrations.

West Linn would not be West Linn without about 100 years of grindstones and the men who fed and fixed them at our mill. So Sandy felt that a public art project designed to produce a heritage monument from old grindstones would be emblematic of our heritage, the perfect addition to a West Linn park or public place and a great Oregon 150 project.

The project is still in the concept phase, but Sandy pitched it to the West Linn Arts Commission and members of the Parks Advisory Board and obtained a commitment from the mill to donate a number of old stones. A foundation work party is planned for May to remove ivy from the stones, which are currently on mill property at an undisclosed location. Stay tuned for future developments on this exciting project.

Thanks to...

Jill Briney, for donating a 1980 Leland John painting of the locks from the estate of Martha Baker, of the Willamette Historic District.

Lonnie Jochim, for donating a property abstract for the Holly Gardens area, containing copies of legal documents dating back to the Hugh and Daniel Burns Land Claims of the 1850s.

Elizabeth Chambers, for restoration/conservation of our 1848 Richardson lithograph of early Oregon City.

The family of Bill "Rosie" Schultze (deceased mill retiree), for donating some of his personal mill souvenirs.

Charles Awalt, for donating speakers for our computer system.

Herb Beal and Elaine Upham from Gladstone Historical Society, for their guest appearance at our April general meeting. Buy Herb's books and support their continuing research on Gladstone history. Learn why one side of Portland Avenue is 'dry' and the other 'wet'.

Tom Doggett, at OPB, for sending our documentary on to The Oregon Channel and the community affairs programming department at OSU Media Services in Corvallis.

Ron Brown, of Bridgetown Printing, for again signing on as printer for the 2007 Daniel Robinson Lock Fest Collector's poster.

Dona Bietschek, for allowing us to copy property abstracts dating to the Ambrose Fields and Robert Moore Donation Land Claims.

Looking ahead...

May 8 Meeting

Join us to talk with Lake Oswego history activist and ace researcher Susanna Kuo about the process and progress in saving the George Roger's Park Iron Furnace.

June 2

Join Gov. Kulongoski and a raft of river-lovers at Portland's Willamette Park for the grand opening of the third and final leg of the Willamette River Water Trail. The locks, of course, are the vital connector that makes the third section of the trail continuous.

Waiting for news

We are waiting for word on recent grant applications to the Bank of America Foundation, the West Linn Arts Commission, the Juan Young Trust, Clackamas Community Federal Credit Union and the Spirit Mountain Community Fund. Cross your fingers.