



# Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Volume 7, Number 2

Summer 2007

## Locks use and hopes are up in 2007

### 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.*

- Hope is in the wind for the historic locks at Willamette Falls, with good-news items left and right.
- As the fourth Lock Fest nears, Senator Smith's staff tells us that the Senate Water and Energy Resources subcommittee put \$258,000 in the proposed budget for Willamette Falls Locks. The Oregon Solutions taskforce hopes for at least \$129,000 to remain after Conference Committee. That money could provide a necessary safety net in case of unanticipated repairs while the task force works to find a new 'guardian' and multi-source funding stream for the 1873 locks.
  - The third and last leg of the Willamette River Water Trail opened June 2nd at Portland's Willamette Park with Governor Kulongoski and other VIPs blessing the event. Leg three includes our locks, which let river travelers and canoe campers bypass the 50' falls without leaving their rides. A great time was had by all, including Colonel Tom O'Donovan, the head of the Portland District Corps of Engineers, who was last seen striking off towards Ross Island in a one-man kayak under a blue sky.
  - Lock operators report that usage is up already this season, as word gets out that they're open. Doug Walker (Columbia River Yachting Assoc.) has led several first-time 'lock-ers' up to Bernert's Landing, making converts out of some previously nervous boat owners. Waverly Yacht Club will again lock through during the Lock Fest Flotilla, September 22. (First-time lock-ers must read and observe locking rules on the Corps website and show up an hour before closing time, Friday through Monday).
  - The Sternwheeler Rose will be our star of the flotilla, with history guides aboard and maybe some old time music. Please look for more info on the Rose website in the coming month and reserve a place for your family. The rides will be deeply discounted and we'd like to fill this boat.



Graceful rowing sculls moved between lock chambers during the last leg of the Corvallis-to-Portland Regatta.

- The updated National Register nomination for our "very significant property" was approved by the State Historic Review Advisory Board in early June at a meeting hosted by us in Oregon City. The update was completed under WFHF supervision by Ashland consultant George Kramer.
- A study of the locks 20-year capital repair needs was just completed for OS, supported by a key grant from the Kinsman Foundation. The study, by Seattle's INCA Engineering, cost \$50,000, with Clackamas Heritage Partners acting as fiscal agent. The study, to be officially released in coming weeks, will be used as we seek the locks' new 'guardian.'
- The 8th Annual Corvallis to Portland Regatta saw about 16 sculls slip through the seven pairs of wooden gates in June. Looking like water-skippers, the slender shells gingerly layered their oars to rest side-by-side in the chambers as the water drained from each level. Pre-event publicity was nice 'free media.'



## Looking ahead...

### Sept. 1

T.W. Sullivan Art Jam show opens at West Linn Library, runs the whole month.

### Sept. 15-16

Visit the WFHF booth at the Willamette Festival of the Arts and take in the Sullivan Art Jam artists' reception at the West Linn Library. See the website for details in September.

### Sept. 22

2007 Lock Fest, Willamette Falls Locks. Join us for heritage and water fun, 9-4.

### Oct. 3

ED Sandy Carter will talk about preserving industrial oral history, at Lake Oswego Heritage House's first 'First Wednesday' of the '07-08 series.

### Oct. 21

Fundraiser: "Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips..." with behind-the-scenes highlights and Q & A time. LO Heritage House, 2 p.m.- 5 p.m. Includes refreshments, for only \$20 donation at the door.

# Director's Message

## Steering towards other important work

As the fourth Lock Fest and the second year of Oregon Solutions roll out, we find ourselves inextricably linked in the public mind with Willamette Falls Locks and their preservation. And that's not a bad thing. In fact I believe that we have been the key instrument of the old locks' salvation, which is something to be very proud of. But our necessary focus on saving the locks has pulled us off mission in some ways. Now, as the locks achieve a 'critical mass' of public interest and saving them is a vision adopted by many policy makers and others in high places, the foundation can turn to its other goals and dreams.

Dreams of an increased public appreciation for our historic industrial center at the locks, promoted in part through creation of a new synergy between artists and heritage industry. Dreams of a video library of stories of mill work at Willamette Falls, begun with 17 interviews and ever expanding to include more Crown Zellerbach and even Hawley Paper and Publishers Paper Companies' stories, while retirees from those operations are still able to remember and

tell them. Dreams of the growth of river-based heritage tourism and the regrowth of river commerce now that the Locks will be there to rely on. Dreams of an industrial heritage district, with its own interpretive center near the locks, focused on papermaking, river transportation, hydropower history, floods, fish ladders, Native American stories and general West Linn history. Even dreams of creating a groundwood/pulpmill museum in some of the oldest buildings on Moore's Island, similar to the Mission Mill Museum in Salem, which landed the state's first "Save America's Treasures" grant many years ago. Dreams of saving the stories of our eldest surviving men and women and their families—the families that settled West Oregon City and West Linn.

We hope that after the Locks' future has been safeguarded, you'll come with us on our next dream chase, giving us your feelings about what parts of the vision are most important to you, and what you can do to help us accomplish the next practically-impossible thing.

— Sandy Carter

---

## Briefs

- The Bank of America Foundation has awarded WFHF a \$2,500 grant for general support, received at the perfect time. Much credit for this award must go the Robinwood's B of A branch manager Jenee Gillham, who suggested applying and provided an embarrassingly great letter of support to the Foundation. Thanks, Jenee. You are wonderful.
- WFHF board members and the Bolton Neighborhood Association neighbors who shared our covered display space put in an unusually cool 2 ½ days at the 51st West Linn Old Time Fair in late July, promoting our heritage mission and hearing lots of new-to-us history stories.
- Charlie Calhoun, retired Crown Zellerbach millwright—one of the 17 individuals who told their stories for our mill oral history movie—passed away June 8 at the age of 79. Our condolences to his family. Chuck is the second retiree from the project to pass away since completion of the documentary and we are very thankful

that he was able to talk with us last year in spite of his failing health. The second and final part of "Grindstones..." will be available before the end of the year, thanks to another grant from The Kinsman Foundation.

- "Grindstones..." has joined the collection of the just-opened Holy Names Heritage Center, at Marylhurst, as an early part of that facility's planned oral history research collection.
- "Grindstones..." is now also available at the gift shops of the Museum of the Oregon Territory and the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center. Thanks to Jayne, Clackamas Heritage Partners' retail manager!
- Sandy Carter taught a free grant-writing class in June, on behalf of the Clackamas County Heritage Council, to help strengthen the fundraising skills of small museums and nonprofits.
- The Oregon Cultural Trust just awarded \$3,500 to WFHF to help us transcribe our Crown Zee video archives!

## Industry and Art:

# First Industrial Art Jam generates positive attention

*Oregonian* readers who opened their paper to the Metro Section May 23rd were treated to a great front-page story about our first Industrial Art Jam, by staff writer John Foyston. Foyston and an *Oregonian* photographer had spent a good part of the previous day haunting West Linn's hidden T.W. Sullivan Hydroelectric plant, following artists around. His story, very well done and featuring multiple color photos, was particu-



Event co-planner Lisa Wilcox seizes some quiet moments in Sullivan's lower hall to create her own art.

larly welcome because it was much more widely read than the *Southwest Weekly* zoned edition stories about our projects that usually don't even run on the other side of the falls in Oregon City.

Nearly a dozen excited artists, with cameras, sketch pads and easel, spent as much of the two-day window of opportunity at the plant as they needed to capture just the 'right' images. Portland General Electric staff and supervisors—including Deb Schallert, in PGE's Parks and Recreation, Hydro Licensing, and Cultural Resources unit—were almost as pleased with the management of the event as we were at the chance to show our participating artists this little-seen heritage site—which also just happens to be an operating hydropower plant. Kudos to all who helped plan and manage the event, especially Deb and Lisa Wilcox and Dean Walch, co-coordinators. Dean created a web-registration option for our invited artists.

We can't wait to see the finished collection, which will open at the West Linn Library Gallery in September and be featured in a foundation website gallery. We are still seeking suitable display spaces for October and November, and we await word on a grant application to the Clackamas County Cultural Coalition for funds to produce a high-quality catalog as a lasting record of this unique heritage art collection.

## The Grindstone Project moves forward

July's Clackamas County Cultural Coalition's grant review panel found 'high merit' in two grants for projects of interest to Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation. In addition to the Art Jam catalog request (see Art Jam story), Sandy put together a grant on behalf of the West Linn Arts Commission, requesting \$2,250 for honoraria for the three semifinalists of a proposed West Linn "% for public art" competition. The proposal is for a heritage/art installation incorporating our six old grindstones, which were donated by WLPaper Company in May and now sit waiting in Willamette Park. The stipends will support development of the top trio's final project models and specifications.

Thanks to mentoring by the Arts Action Alliance of Clackamas County, we now have a skeletal 'process plan' that includes the formation of a cross-represented committee with folks from many city boards and interest groups. That committee will develop the mission/vision for the project and work with the city to develop a "Request for Qualifications" to send to artists who will be identified as working on projects of this size and scale.

WFHF and the city's Historic Resources Advisory Board will provide the RFQ's historic context statement for the stones and work in partnership with other industrial heritage experts to create the eventual interpretive signage to accompany the art.

This exciting project has a long way to go, but is an-

anticipated to be very fundable as it nears reality. West Linn City Manager Chris Jordan supplied a letter of support for the application, which, if granted, will be good 'seed' money. Sandy will be presenting the project concept to the Parks Board and the Historic Resources Advisory Board in August, inviting them to endorse and join the effort by assigning a representative to the proposed Grindstones Working Group. The group will welcome ideas and seek additional project sponsors in the coming months. This great industrial art/heritage project aims for completion during Oregon's 150th birthday celebration in 2009.



West Linn Roads Department employees maneuver a grindstone onto a forklift in preparation for transport to Willamette Park.

## Education

# Putting local stories in classrooms

When ED Sandy Carter played the 9-minute promo DVD of our Crown Zellerbach documentary for Jane Stickney, West Linn-Wilsonville School District's Assistant Superintendent, the response was immediate and positive: "I can see a million uses for this," said Stickney, which was just what Carter wanted to hear. Carter has applied to the Juan Young Trust for a grant to create interpretive materials to go with her two-hour oral history of West Linn millwork so the movie's stories and messages can benefit district students.

By the time their brief June meeting at the district's his-

toric Administration Building was over, Stickney said that she would like to add the documentary to WLWV's digital resource archives. After a positive trustee reaction and a site visit to the WFHF office, Carter is optimistic that these stories of mid-20th Century mill work and social issues will soon be available for use in history, writing, social studies, American Problems, women's studies and other classes at West Linn High School, limited only by the fertile imagination of digital library users. If the grant is approved, the foundation will receive an award letter the first week of August.

---

## Thanks to...

- Portland General Electric for a generous donation of \$2,000 for Lock Fest 2007.
- Gramor Development for a generous donation of \$500 to the production of our 2007 poster.
- Bolton Neighborhood Association, for a generous donation of \$450 to support the rental of the Oregon City Trolley for our Lock Fest Shuttle bus.
- Our new volunteers, Suzy Kopetski, Liz O'Brien, Beth Kierese, Mark Jones, and Jackie Nardone. Many thanks for sharing your time and skills.
- Larry McClure, of Tualatin Heritage Center, for hosting a June showing of "Grindstones..."
- Janice Dilg, Northwest Oral History Association, for two consecutive mentions of our documentary in her quarterly newsletter.
- Joe Law, of the Lake Oswego-based Oregon Austin-Healy Club, for rallying at the Locks May 12 and bringing about 30 people for 'the tour'.
- Denyse McGriff, Old Home Forum leader, historic homeowner and McLoughlin Memorial Association president, for speaking at our June monthly meeting.
- Crown Zee Retirees and Associates for again inviting Sandy to their reunion picnic, July 18.
- Tony Tully of the West Linn Rotary International for the opportunity to tour that group around the locks during its lunch meeting July 25.
- The Canby Kiwanis Club and the McLoughlin Memorial Association for inviting Sandy to speak to their organizations on July 30th and Oct. 27th, respectively.

### 2007 Lock Fest marketing poster

The 2007 limited-edition Lock Fest poster commemorates the iconic Hawley Powerhouse on Black Point, which overlooks the Willamette River, the falls, and the mills. This year's striking image is a 2002 view from the east side of the falls, showing Hawley against a backdrop of the river and larger industrial forms of the mill. Historic Hawley is currently slated for demolition in 2008 under a Federal Energy Regulatory Commission decommissioning order.

Posters will start popping up across the Oregon City and West Linn area in early August, advertising the festival. Please contact Sandy Carter if you'd like to post one in your place of business. Large posters will again be sold at Lock Fest, September 22, and through the foundation website.

Huge thanks once more to artist Daniel Robinson; designer Lisa Wilcox; Jim at JDA Creative Color; Ron Brown, at Bridgetown Printing; project sponsor Barry Cain, at Gramor Development; and Ian Dunlap at West Linn Paper Company. We continue to receive orders for last year's poster from as far away as Michigan, providing important operating revenue to help us continue with our Industry & Art Initiative.



West Linn Paper's Ian Dunlap allowed the classic beauties to park in the mill's private lower lot.