



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Volume 9, Number 1

Summer 2010

Commerce and recreation share the spotlight at 2010 Lock Fest

On the nicest day in May, supportive sponsors and nearly 100 great volunteers made the Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks reopening celebration May 15 a big success. The sixth Lock Fest drew more than 1,000 visitors to the 1873 canal.

Festival organizers and visitors were especially pleased to see the Sara B—a veteran tug boat—and her two commercial cargoes taking turns with the canoes, antique wood boats, the Sternwheeler Rose, the Portland Spirit’s “Outrageous” jet boat and a Coast Guard inflatable runabout. Filling the 210’ x 40’ chambers, massive barges of Schnitzer Steel scrap (headed to McMinnville for recycling), and then Wilsonville Construction’s half load of sand gave guests a look at the way the canal was used for decades prior to the 1990s’ slowdown in commercial use.

Other highlights of the flotilla were the first appearance of a Grand Ronde tribal ceremonial canoe and the first “Lock Hop” paddling event, organized by the Linn City Canoe and Kayak Club. On land, antique car clubs brought in autos that illustrated what people would have been driving when the Corps of Engineers took over the locks.

This year’s recognition ceremony highlighted the 95th anniversary of USACOE’s stewardship of the canal, as well

as Armed Services Day, the continuing work of the One Willamette River Coalition and the long-awaited completion last winter of the Hydraulic Steel Structures Gate Inspection and associated repairs, largely paid for by federal stimulus dollars.

The canal’s operations for 2010 have once more been funded through an earmarked special allocation, requested by the City of West Linn and sponsored by Congressman Kurt Schrader. Operations at the West Linn canal continue to be on a year-to-year basis, dependent on special allocations, because the canal is officially still in “Caretaker” status in the COE budget.

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Barge with Schnitzer Steel recycling bins, heading for Oregon Rolling Mills in McMinnville, completely fills Chamber Three



The Portland Spirit’s jet boat, Outrageous, took its turn

2010-11 Grants/ grant-funded projects

2010 Lock Fest grants:

- Portland General Electric (\$2,500)
- City of West Linn (\$2,000)
- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde (\$1,000)

2010 Poster sponsor (\$600) – Gramor Development

2010 Clackamas County Cultural Coalition awarded WFHF \$1,000 for the publication of the complete Crown Zellerbach video archive of stories on papermaking in West Linn. The book, to be edited and produced by Sandy Carter, must be completed by the end of the year.

2011 Lock Fest has been awarded \$1,000 by City of West Linn budget committee.

SPECIAL THANKS:

To Barbara Brady, CPA, for her invaluable assistance this summer updating the foundation's electronic accounting records. Our praise knows no bounds.

Editor's Message

Volunteerism – Our lifeblood

With the passing of another amazing Lock Fest, honorable mentions are due the volunteers who continue to make this educational event one of the most remarkable summer festivals on the west coast. Highest honors, of course, to this year's "Volunteer Coordinator", Michele Eberle, whose calm, warm and focused recruitment and organizational skills produced the smoothest year yet for those of us behind the scenes AND for visitors. Kudos to Jody Carson and Jon Miller for managing the parking department, which is always a major production in itself, requiring dozens of pleasant and patient volunteers. Deep bows to Chuck Ferrell, of Accurate Installation, without whom I'd quit. He supplies and drives the van that runs the setup and takedown 'paper route' required to borrow and move to and from storage all of our actual equipment—as well as doing the 'mule' work of loading and unloading it all, twice. Hugs to Roger Shepherd and Mike Watters, of the Planning Group, who make it look easy organizing the park and parking lot displays, marking booth spaces, getting the Lions to come and cook, doing the maps for shuttle and parking and coming to a ton of planning meetings in the months running up to the fest.

Those are just some of the 'insiders' on the planning group. Other indispensable partners at the event include: the Corps, which gives us a



Leaders of the set-up crew were Michele Eberle, holding the assignment list, and Chuck Ferrell (second from right), of Accurate Installation, who owns and drives the all-important gear truck.

waiver to use the park and this year authorized overtime so the canal could accommodate more vessels May 15; Ian Dunlap, of West Linn Paper Company, one of the event 'hosts' and provider of mill tours and security; and Deb Schallert, of Portland General Electric, who runs the power company tours, loans us canopies and vouches for us for PGE sponsorship each year. Without the City of West Linn we'd have no bleachers to sit on. Without the McLean House we'd be out trying to rent about 20 tables and 50 chairs. Without the Methodist Pie Ladies, visitors would have no dessert. The list goes on.

I cannot thank all of our exhibitors, greeters, and partners individually in this space, but you know who you are. And this year, thanks to Michele, most of you got personal Thank You notes. Is that classy, or what?

~Sandy

Lock Fest posters take their place at City Hall



When West Linn City Manager Chris Jordan redecorated his office in May, he decided to go local, as well as artful. We think the four small Lock Fest posters, representing festivals since 2006, look great in City Hall. Get yours online or by calling 503.650.9570

Art Contemplates Industry “Bull Run Powerhouse” winds to a close at PGE

The foundation’s largest Art Contemplates Industry exhibit to date—the Bull Run Powerhouse collection—followed its three month Government Camp run with six weeks at the Sandy Library and the month of April at the West Linn Library Gallery, then moved to the hydro-engineering offices at PGE for an internal company show. The Bull Run art that is unsold will return to its creators August 16 at the close of an in-house closing reception for the artists at PGE headquarters in Portland. So far, Leslie Peterson and Zeb Andrews have found new homes for their pieces.

Here are a few typical Comment Book remarks from the exhibit: “Thoughtful, sad, wonderful!”, “Love the different perspectives of hydro”, “Great exhibit. This is really something to see!”, “Excellent display by all the artists”, “Nice variety, great work”, “Very nice mix of industry and humanity.”

Hawley Powerhouse Exhibit Update

The Art Contemplates Industry “Hawley Powerhouse” exhibit catalog has been produced with the assistance of the

Oregon City “Leave a Legacy” grant for \$500. WFHF received the first half of the grant in 2009 and the second half on completion of the project, in June. Complementary catalogs are being distributed to the participating artists, the City of Oregon City, Portland General Electric, County libraries, the Clackamas County Historical Society and WFHF board members. The approximately 50 remaining historic catalogs will be available for \$15 online or by phone order.



The artists and their friends compared notes in April at the West Linn Library reception for the Bull Run collection. In this photo are Bonnie Meltzer, Shelley Hershberger, Sue Allen, Dean Walch, Christopher Mooney and Mason Parker.

Important Locks Update:

Keep your eye on Congress. Word from Senator Ron Wyden’s office is that Oregon City’s request for Corps of Engineers funding to operate the Willamette Falls Navigation Canal and Locks in 2011 is still alive but has been reduced to \$118,000. If you support this request to supplement the Corps’ caretaker budget of approximately \$70,000 for next year, please let your congressional representatives know it.

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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 Please let me know about volunteer opportunities Please contact me about a meeting, presentation or tour
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Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit Oregon corporation established for educational purposes and heritage preservation.

Lock Fest, continued



Kids of all ages loved the Lock Scenic photo-op



One visitor examines a map of the potential National Heritage Area centered on the falls



Grand Ronde tribal members glide past the mill's loading dock by Chamber 4



An unknown group of living history hams it up by the antique cars



Sternwheeler Rose made two trips through the canal, and its passengers were the object of landlubbers' envy.



Paddlers in the first Lock Hop event chatted with visitors at the rail