



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

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The end's in sight and money's on the way

A refurbished lock will open in May

When the inspection of Gate 3 at Willamette Falls Lock and Navigation Canal began last January the snows of the region's Great White Christmas had just melted. As November ushers in the holidays and the thermometer is again dropping into the winter range, the completion of this monumental Hydraulic and Steel Structures inspection of the lock's seven massive gates is finally assured and in sight.

Gate 3's in-the-park repairs and reinstallation in March marked a somber moment, as the price tag for finishing all seven pairs of gates had escalated significantly and funding was not assured. The contractor, Triad Mechanicals, stayed ready to reengage with the work if Federal funding were forthcoming.

With the award of \$1.3M in stimulus dollars to the project in April, crews moved the repair-base barge upriver for repairs on gates 7, 6, and 5—the gates that are upriver from the Museum and mill bridge. Gate 7 work was done in June, with 6 and 5 following quickly by the end of July. Each gate leaf posed its own special challenges to the Corps mechanics and Triad barge and crane crew. With the reinstallation of 5, the operations barge moved into the area between the locks and the arch bridge for the work on Gates 1, 2, and 4, which was optimistically estimated to wrap up by the end of October.

Work at the downstream entrance turned out to be the



June 15 saw the reinstallation of Gate 7, at the upriver entrance to the canal.

most challenging of all. Gate 1, as the biggest gate, presented unique issues, needing replacement of more than 10 feet of its quoin post timber, as well as work on the gudgeon arms and the pintle bearings. We're thrilled that Triad has donated the replaced parts to the foundation for posterity.

The giant, 130,000 pound Gate 1, whose leaves are more than 24 feet tall, was finally reinstalled November 2 and 3, and Gate 2 (at the downstream operator's shack) was immediately pulled out on the 4th and 5th. It was reinstalled Nov. 18/19. Gate 4, the last gate, was pulled out Thanksgiving week and will be back in place by December 9th. Triad and Corps managers are now estimating the completion of 2 and 4 by January or February 2010, depending on how many repairs are needed.

Thanks to full local and congressional support for the project, late October saw the announcement of operations money for the 2010 boating season by Congressman Kurt Schrader's office and the Corps, enabling the foundation's Lock Fest planners to finally set a date for a celebratory event in the spring.



Corps and Triad mechanics work atop the left leaf of Gate 1

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News Briefs

- That new roof on the Locks Museum is courtesy of Portland General Electric, which bought the roofing materials, and the Corps of Engineers, which supplied the labor to re-roof on October 5.

- Clackamas County Cable Access was on hand for the reinstallation of Gate 1 on November 2nd, and will be producing a documentary on the inspection and repairs, for release around the time the process is finally done.

- Sandy presided over a showing of "Friends, Fish and \$1.09 an Hour"—our 60-minute millwork documentary—at the Holy Names Heritage Center in October, and was thrilled to have stars Paul Miken and Ed and Margaret Witherspoon on hand that night to answer questions after the film.

- Congratulations to the Willamette Neighborhood Association of West Linn, for the Willamette Neighborhood Historic District's acceptance to the National Register of Historic Places. The nomination study of the district was paid for by a Certified Local Government grant from SHPO, with City in-kind contributions. The process was shepherded by the city's Historic Resources Advisory Board (HRAB), neighborhood leaders like Jody Carson and Ruth Offer, and City staff.

- Keep your eye on H.B. 4081, introduced by Rep. K. Schrader, of West Linn. It would authorize a feasibility study for a Willamette Falls National Heritage Area.

From the Editor: The well is dry

by **Sandy Carter**

Times are tough, and contributions supporting our preservation work have been at a virtual standstill this year, as you can see from the slender list of 2009 donors on the next page. Although we no longer have paid staffing, our volunteer leadership continues to catalyze the planning for the Locks' future; to get our projects in the news; to share our oral history of mill work with researchers; to work with local schools and other heritage groups regionally (as well as the University of Oregon); and to encourage appreciation of historic industrial sites through our "Art Contemplates Industry" exhibits.

Although we have free office space, we need to pay for phone/internet service, office liability, printing and mailing costs, as well as program expense for things like Lock Fest, more oral history projects, and curriculum development. I urge you to join me in supporting this exciting, productive and worthwhile work by...

- Making a tax-deductible charitable contribution to Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, by mail or from our website, and then donating a matching amount to the Oregon Cultural Trust before December 31, for an Oregon tax credit of up to \$500 for individuals or \$2,500

for a corporation. This philanthropic one-two punch can have very positive effects on your tax bottom line for 2009. Consult a qualified professional on the benefits for your situation. Donations of any size are appreciated.

- Giving a unique West Linn and Oregon heritage gift. Share the stories of our mill 'elders' by giving the honored citizens in your family the Crown Zellerbach oral history DVD set. Get "Grindstones, Boomsticks, Tattletales and Nips—the people and the stories of Crown Zellerbach International, West Linn Division, 1928-1986" (2 hrs.), or part two, "Friends, Fish and \$1.09 an Hour" (1 hr.) for just \$24.95, or order the set for \$49.90 from our website or \$45 by check, to PO Box 311, Marylhurst, OR 97036. Both movies are close-captioned for the hard-of-hearing.
- Giving one of our beautiful and unique Lock Fest posters to an art-lover on your list. Order online at www.willamettefalls.org or by phone (503-650-9570) and check to PO Box 311, Marylhurst, OR 97036.

Thanks for everything you do to support heritage, and please have a rewarding holiday season, nourished by the stories of your own family.

Art Contemplates Industry, Bull Run Powerhouse

Powerful is the word (forgive the pun). The electrifying art created by 20 artists at Bull Run Powerhouse in the months since their visit there May 1 is proving to be quite a draw at the Mt. Hood Cultural Center & Museum, at Government Camp, where the exhibit opened with a snow-threatened artists' reception on October 3rd.

Museum Director Lloyd Musser reports that his docents counted 800 visitors in October, and strong interest in the show, which will remain on display there until January 4. The collection will move to the Sandy Public Library from January 5 through February 21, then to the West Linn Library Gallery for the month of April.

The Government Camp reception October 3rd, catered by Busy Bee Catering in Welches, was sponsored in part by the Portland

Water Bureau and Connie Knittel, of Pacific Pioneer Real Estate, in Sandy. The interpretive banner that heralds the show at every venue and explains the historic context is supported in part by the Mt. Hood National Forest office of the Forest Service.

All print materials associated with the exhibit were developed by artist, graphic designer and co-curator of the ACI project, Lisa Wilcox, of Oregon City. ArtcontemplatesIndustry.com website development has been donated by co-curator Dean Walch. This creative collaboration continues to attract new partners as it builds respect for the heritage sites that it captures and commemorates.



In the Bull Run turbine room, dramatic colors accent dramatic shapes

WFL's National Register nomination update

We should all thank Clackamas County's Department of Tourism and Cultural Affairs and the County Commissioners for coming up with resources to lead the effort to present the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places with a strong argument for our 1873 lock and canal's national significance.

Below are selected high points from the consultant's draft argument, which will go to the State Historic Resources Advisory Board in March. After review and approval of the application, it will again be sent to the National Park Service for consideration. The locks are currently on the National Register at the local and state level of significance.

"...The Canal and Locks at Willamette Falls is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places ... for its association with America's maritime history, specifically the history of inland river navigation improvements. It was the first significant facility built to improve navigation on the Columbia-Snake River Inland Waterway, one of America's two national inland waterways (McCartney, 1998: Figure 1-3, 53; U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, "Inland Waterway Navigation: Value to the Nation," undated).

...The Canal and Locks at Willamette Falls is also eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places ... because circumstances of place and politics have limited modernization efforts. The effect of those circumstances has made the Canal and Locks at Willamette Falls a rare surviving example of early to mid-nineteenth century bypass canal and lock construction. ...The Canal and Locks at Willamette Falls maintains the integrity of its original routing and design. Neither the route, the canal and locks' width, nor the number of locks have changed since it opened. Steel backed lock gates, which replaced the original timber backed gates in 1954 (within the period of significance) have the same miter gate design and use the same system of sliding emptying valves and butterfly filling valves as the gates they replaced.

Modification of technology such as replacement of the capstan gate-opening mechanisms with hydraulic cylinders in 1941 (also within the period of significance) reflects the overall history of changes in canal and lock technology in America over time.

...Changes made in material made must be considered within the context of the canal and locks' character as a maritime property. As National Register Bulletin No. 20, Nominating Historic Vessels or Shipwrecks to the National Register of Historic Places notes, a maritime environment is a corrosive environment. Just as immersion in water requires periodic replacement of a ship's hull planking and that replacement does not remove historical integrity, periodic replacement of timber cladding on a lock's walls does not remove the lock's historical integrity." Excerpt from William Hanable's November 2009 submission to SHPO



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
 I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution:

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Inspection behind them, Locks stakeholders mobilize for next steps

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Meanwhile, the steering committee for the One Willamette River Coalition, whose work has brought locks preservation efforts this far, is gearing up again. Gary Schmidt, former aide to Senator Gordon Smith, is now the Clackamas County lead for locks' boosters on the One Willamette River Coalition, which tentatively plans a meeting of all stakeholders for January to renew pursuit of its long-term strategy to ensure that the lock and canal stays open, if necessary, through a future transfer of ownership out of federal hands.



As a leaf of Gate 1 hung from huge straps, workmen resorted to pushing the quoin timber with their feet to protect the shore-mounted fittings during removal.

Mark your calendar for Lock Fest 2010

To more closely align with the 'grand' reopening of the canal and create a timely celebration of the lock gates' fresh bill of health, we're setting the 2010 date for Lock Fest back to the spring: Saturday, May 15. We hope to once again see a vibrant flotilla of all types of watercraft, as well as the usual mix of tours, demonstrations, educational displays, kid's activities and a few big surprises. The date will put us on the same weekend as the Pioneer Family Festival in Oregon City, so we hope to have a water shuttle of some kind between the locks and Clackamette Park that Saturday.

Please email the foundation at willamettefalls@msn.com or call 503-650-9570 and leave a message if you'd like to volunteer for the sixth year of this wonderful, non-commercial festival, celebrating history, boating, the falls and the river. We seek an energetic Volunteer Coordinator for the festival, and the core planning group will begin meeting over pizza in December to develop a budget, schedules and special events for 2010. Join Sandy, Jody, Roger, and "PlayMike" Watters for the fun. This is the little event "that could"—could save our canal!

Thank you to our 2009 donors and grantors, as of November 15, 2009:

Friends	Bill and Alma Coston, Sania Radcliffe, Angela Dreher, Dr. John Schilke, Judy Morton
Corporate Friends	PGE Employee Giving Campaign, Mt. Hood National Forest, Portland Water Bureau, Pacific Pioneer Real Estate
Supporters	Dean Walch, Betty Osburn
Corporate Supporters	Blue Heron Paper Company
Benefactors	Sherri Burch, Bob Steele, Norm King, Sandy Carter
Silver Partners	City of Oregon City "Leave a Legacy" Grant

In Memory of Alfred Staehli

Friends	Susan & Lynn Spruill, Jewel Lansing, Sara Munro, Tom Clark & Susan Mikkelson, Joan Hoffman, Laurie Simmons, Cecelia Gould, Sherrill A. Behn, Susan Ward, Sunny Fromm, Sally Donovan, Ray Polani, Donald & Charlotte Branton, Virginia Guest Ferriday
Supporters	Pittock Mansion Society, Roberta Badger-Cain
Benefactor	John Broome