



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Volume 8, Number 2

Spring 2009

Corps finds \$1.8 million for locks work

“Shovel-ready” takes on new meaning at Willamette Locks

Thanks in large part to the untiring advocacy of the Oregon Solutions’ Willamette Locks Team, the Clackamas County Board of Commissioners was able to announce April 30 that the US Army Corps of Engineers had allocated \$1.8 M in federal stimulus dollars to Willamette Falls Locks in West Linn. The money will complete a mandatory safety inspection of the lock gates and do any needed repairs. The money is part of \$4.6 B in stimulus appropriated to the corps for ‘civil works’ projects.

US Representative Kurt Schrader and Colonel Miles, head of the Portland District COE, met with about two dozen elated members of the One Willamette River Coalition at the locks on May 11, to exchange a check replica symbolizing the long-awaited news. Present at the ceremony were Lynn Peterson, chair of the County Commission, and representatives from the Governor’s office, US Senator Merkely’s office, State Rep. Bill Kennemer’s office, Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris, Oregon Solutions Director Steve Greenwood, Sandy Carter and many other public and private partners.

The coalition conducted a letter-writing campaign during the winter and early spring on behalf of the West Linn locks, which had seen the repair and reinstallation of Gate 3 in January and February, before funding for the initial



Pictured by Gate 3 with a photo-op check on May 11 are (L. to R.) former West Linn mayor Norm King; Colonel Miles, head of the Portland District Corps of Engineers; Lynn Peterson, chair of the Clackamas County Board of Commissions; “One Willamette River” convener Verne Duncan; U.S. Representative Kurt Schrader; Steve Greenwood, of Oregon Solutions; Mark Ellsworth, of Governor Kulongoski’s office; and Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris.

Triad Construction Company inspection contract ran out. Wilsonville Construction, subcontracting with Corvallis-based Triad, had left a barge-mounted crane in the locks since the work was ‘paused’, so the equipment would be in place if stimulus money came through for the restoration of this vital Willamette Valley alternate transportation link. The Corps estimated that inspection of the remaining six pairs of gate leaves would start again in late May and the gate work be done by sometime in October.

Recreational use of the locks by both motorboats and human-powered craft increased when regional advocacy (like Lock Fest) and coalition fundraising kept the canal open on a limited schedule in 2006 and 2007. But the Corps’ requirement of a Hydraulic Steel Structures inspection in 2008 kept the locks ‘out of order’ last year except for the passage of Salem’s Willamette Queen Sternwheeler in January. When the HSS Inspection and associated repairs are completed, funding for continuing operations of the canal can be addressed by the growing list of supporters and stakeholders.



Lock Gate 3 rests in the park February 11 as the crane that pulled it from its hinges awaits its next ‘lift’, back into position after repairs are done.

Thank You

To Marylou Colver, of Lake Oswego, for her donation of historic postcards picturing Willamette Falls. We deeply appreciate her thoughtfulness and hope to be able to post some of these wonderful images on the website, soon.

Board vacancy

Wanted: A preservation architect with a strong interest in industrial archeology, a taste for fun, and the ability to attend most monthly meetings in Oregon City. Many intangible perks. Call 503-655-0649.

Oregon City Grant

Thanks to Oregon City for the recent award of a "Leave A Legacy" grant for our Hawley Powerhouse art exhibit catalog. The \$500 grant covers about one quarter of the anticipated budget for art-quality production and printing. Catalogs will be placed in Oregon City and other County libraries as a tribute to the former landmark.

Patty Pynch

FEB. 20, 1923 – JUNE 1, 2009

Long-time supporter and early member of our Willamette Falls Heritage group, Patty was deeply involved in preservation and other community volunteerism for decades in Oregon City and West Linn. We convey our regrets to her family at her passing.

Editor's Message

Alfred M. Staehli

November 24, 1929-May 4, 2009

Our friend and board member Al Staehli died peacefully in his sleep May 4, and West Linn's Willamette Falls Navigation Lock and Canal lost a great advocate. His advanced brain cancer severely curtailed his ability to get around, but Al kept his deep commitment to life and to history until that morning. His career as a preservation architect, advocate and expert consultant on the technical aspects of preservation was long and distinguished. He had helped review and had contributed valuable comments to the current work on upgrading the locks' historic status. I give him credit for saving and guiding the restoration of the Pittock Mansion. He certainly saved historic Crater Lake Lodge. His thesis was the first important analysis of John Day's Kam Wah Chung trading post—now a National Landmark. He was a founder and long-time member of the Historic Preservation League of Oregon. And he had tenure on the board of Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation, where it will be impossible to replace his skills and accomplishments.

One of Al's last great causes was that our 1873 navigation locks should be preserved, kept open and declared a National Historic Landmark.



Al and Jeanne locking through in 2006.

We can only hope to honor him by continuing to pursue those goals. His family has honored us by requesting that Al's friends and admirers donate to the foundation, in lieu of flowers. We are deeply grateful to be associated with his legacy in this deeply thoughtful way, and will think of him and miss him next spring, when the canal he loved reopens at last.

~ Sandy

Art Contemplates Industry: Hawley Powerhouse 2008

In keeping with the foundation's goal of showing our historic industrial sites through the eyes of fine artists, our second plein art 'art jam' has been on display and drawing rave reviews since January. A heritage and art legacy project managed and sponsored by Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation and Portland General Electric, the Hawley Powerhouse event recorded an Oregon City icon that was torn down one month later.

Seventeen juried artists created pieces for the exhibit, which hung in the West Linn Library Gallery for the month of January, then at the Willamette Falls Hospital Gallery in Oregon City for three months ending May 14. The Oregon City exhibit was sponsored by the hospital's Foundation, Blue Heron Paper Company and the Clackamas County Arts Alliance. When co-curators Sandy Carter, Lisa Wilcox and Dean Walch packed up the art pieces on the 14th, the next stop was PGE's downtown offices in World Trade Center 3, where the hydro engineering staff



Kevin Farrell's realistic image of Hawley from the east is a favorite of many fans of the exhibit.

will be able to admire the work until July 1. The pictured piece, by Kevin Farrell, has been pulled from the PGE venue for an Oregon150 exhibit at the Froelick Gallery in Portland.

See the Hawley images at artcontemplatesindustry.com. Click on the Bull Run link for info on our current project.

Bull Run Powerhouse hosts 2009 art jam

In order to restore historic fish runs to the Sandy River and its upper tributaries, Portland General Electric recently decommissioned Bull Run Powerhouse, removed Marmot Dam, and drained Roslyn Lake, which had served as the man-made forebay for hydropower generation at Bull Run. Since the plant is no longer producing power, PGE has been working to sell the facility into new ownership that will include stewardship of the history of the property and the structures located there. Today the Bull Run Hydroelectric Project consists of a dispersed group of buildings, sites, and structures ranging in construction date from 1906-1913 through the late 1960s, including the main powerhouse, a transformer building and a machine shop.

As a creative means of documenting the site, PGE invited Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation to stage a plein air art event there, too, before the power plant changes ownership. Working from the belief that art can reach and create a new audience for historic appreciation, the foundation agreed to move away from the falls for this third art partnership opportunity with PGE.

On April 30th and May 1, the following artists visited the remote powerhouse on the flanks of Mt. Hood to capture their images, which will be shown this winter at a mountain venue, and in spring of 2010 at Sandy and West Linn public libraries. The work will be amazing.

Sue Allen	Shelley	Leslie Peterson
Zeb Andrews	Hershberger	Neal Philpott
John Calvelli	Lawrence Johnson	Mark Rupert
Leslie Cheney Parr	Phil Juttelstad	Susan Schenk
Shannon Covington	Bonnie Meltzer	Stephen Takacs
Judith Davis	Christopher	Dean Walch
Kevin Farrell	Mooney	Lisa Wilcox
	Mason Parker	Martha Wilcox



Cathedral-like windows of the 1906 powerhouse, which was served by a Portland trolley line, dwarf co-curator and WFHF Advisory Council member Lisa Wilcox.



Deb Schallert, PGE 'host' for the Bull Run art jam, chats with stereographic photographer and co-curator Dean Walch, next to the switching yard.

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.

- Please send me your newsletter via regular mail email Please notify me of regular meetings, the same way
 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:
 Up to \$50 Friend **\$50 to \$99** Supporter **\$100 to \$499** Benefactor **\$500 to \$999** Silver Partner
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Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit Oregon corporation established for educational purposes and heritage preservation.

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Partnership News



The distinctive hoops of the End of the Oregon Trail Interpretive Center tower over Gretchen Luxenberg (third from right) and her local tour guides (from left) Oregon City Mayor Alice Norris, Ice Age Floods member Mark Buser, State Parks representative Mark Davison (back to camera), former West Linn Mayor Norm King, Clackamas County Historical Society member Mike Norris, and (taking the photo) Sandy Carter.

- National Park Service's Gretchen Luxenberg drove down from her Seattle office to tour West Linn Paper Company's historic Mill A, the Locks Museum and PGE's 1895 TW Sullivan Plant on April 23, in an opportunity arranged by Sandy Carter, for the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition. The visit acquainted Gretchen with West Linn and Oregon City historic resources and led into her afternoon meeting with and presentation on National Heritage Areas at the Museum of the Oregon Territory. Many thanks to Jim Mahar, Deb Schallert and Ian Dunlap for allowing the tour.

- Student work from the latest of three U of O School of Landscape Architecture studios focused on the falls area was on display at an open house at Clackamas County Elections offices June 2. Student projects developed potential Heritage Area themes and enhancements to visitor access to attractions near the falls. Sandy has represented the coalition at prior midterm and final reviews in Eugene to give some community perspective on the students' early design concepts. Thanks to Professor Robert Ribe for his invaluable help.



West Linn Parks Director Ken Worcester goes over a city map for the winter-term class, which studied existing river bank access on both sides of the river near the falls.

Coming attractions

June 17

Sandy Carter will screen "Friends, Fish, and \$1.09 an Hour" and answer questions about the foundation's Crown Zellerbach oral history project, at 7 p.m. at the Holy Names Heritage Center, 17425 Holy Names Dr., Marylhurst: take the north light off Highway 43, first parking lot.

June 26

The State Historic Resources Advisory Board will review the Willamette neighborhood's historic district nomination, at the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) in Salem. Sandy will be attending as one of the West Linn Historic Resources Advisory Board representatives to support and cheer the nomination along. Thanks to Ian, at SHPO, for his excellent work.

July 17-19

Look for the foundation booth at the West Linn Old Time Fair, Willamette Park, West Linn. See the city's website for fair schedules.

Note:

Lock Fest 2009 is cancelled because the canal will be under repair until after boating season.



Inside: More Stories

In Memoriam: Al Staehli, page 2

Bull Run Powerhouse, page 3