



Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation

Volume 10, Number 2

Summer 2011

Oregon City Mill closure gave WFHF the boot

The Foundation board jumped into disaster response mode at the end of February with the receipt of an unexpected email from our Blue Heron landlords that the mill was closing three days later and we needed to move before it was locked up by the bankruptcy court. Thanks to a U-Haul, day labor and the incredible efforts of Roger Shepherd, Jody Carson, Sandy Carter, Alma Coston and Jim Mattis, our entire operation was boxed, labeled, hefted and transferred to storage in West Linn for the month of March. After nearly a month of organizational limbo, a call from Jim Edwards, a West Linn history lover and commercial realtor led us to a new Oregon City location. And on April 1, with more hard work we moved into our new digs in **Suite 101 of the Promenade Building, 421 High Street.**

All in all we consider ourselves extremely lucky—first, because of Blue Heron's five years of support in letting us operate there, rent-free, and second, because of the community support that led to Jim's help and our serendipitous relocation. The Promenade Building is fastidiously maintained, beautifully landscaped, and overlooks the vast heritage at Willamette Falls that we are working to hard to protect and interpret. Our third piece of good news came shortly after the move, when we got word that Lauri Burns, our wonderful work study college student from Clackamas Community College will be working with Sandy Carter to put the new office space to maximally efficient use. Burns and Carter currently work 10 hours a week, on Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday mornings, but please be sure to call in case we're on vacation or otherwise not in the office on the day you plan to visit. (503.650.9570)

**Please come and see us at our OPEN HOUSE,
noon-6, Friday, July 29th!**

Director's Message and Briefs—P.2

Locks News stories—P. 3

Heritage partnerships—P.4

Director's Message: A Rose by any other name?

A funny thing happened at the foundation's half-day retreat in May: we ended up deciding to change the name of the organization. Why? Well, it started with a general recognition that since the emergence of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition, there's been quite a bit of confusion in the public's mind about who's who. Board members were a little uncomfortable seeing a potential blurring of the HAC and the Foundation, as both have very different missions and purposes, even if they do have the same geographic area of interest. As we talked more about it, we reviewed the projects we've worked on and completed over the last dozen years, and it struck us that a more accurate name and an improved public differentiation of the Foundation's role versus the HAC could be achieved by adding one word: Industrial.

Our reasoning: The focus of Lock Fest is industry and transportation. The focus of the "Art Contemplates Industry" art events in historic hydropower facilities is industrial. The two documentary movies about work at the West Linn mill highlighted the human side of industry. The history curriculum we developed from the oral history project focused on West Linn's industrial past. The "Grindstones Project", which we continue to believe will be West Linn's first public art project, symbolizes our industry. The community conversations that we staged at and with the McLean House in 2005 focused on memories of our industrial heritage. And the book that we just published and placed in libraries is about the papermaking industry in West Linn.

Through patient advocacy and some killer projects, we have become the 'specialists' in our industrial heritage at Willamette Falls, and have single-handedly succeeded in raising the importance of that element of falls-area history in the community mind. Industrial heritage is now fittingly seen as one of the key themes in the work of the Heritage Area Coalition as it works to develop an encompassing narrative of the area for a feasibility study for the Park Service and Congress.

So we would like to ask the opinions of you, our friends and supporters, about what your reaction would be if we changed the name of the Foundation to the Willamette Falls Industrial Heritage Foundation. It wouldn't change who we are or what we cherish, protect, or educate people about. It would more openly embrace a part of history that some in the community have not yet grown to love. Give us your opinions, please, if you have a strong feeling one way or the other about this idea. Just call 503-650-9570 and leave a message or drop us a note on email at willamettefalls@msn.com, or write a real letter to PO Box 635, West Linn, OR 97068. While we feel this is a positive change, we care about your interest and don't wish to lose your support. Remember, our mission is still to preserve and promote the magnificence and history of Willamette Falls so that it may live in the minds and imaginations of people of all ages. Have a great summer. *Sandy*

"\$1.09 an hour..." still selling

Since the release of the Crown Zellerbach oral history book "\$1.09 an hour and glad to have it", authored by Sandy Carter, sales and donations of the book have prompted the foundation to publish two more printings of 100 books each. Thanks to Paul Solomon, of West Linn, who ordered it for a gift, the book found its way to the hands of Stephen Zellerbach, nephew of J.D. Zellerbach. J.D played a prominent role in the memories of the retired millworkers quoted in the book. Stephen Zellerbach, in turn, called the Foundation to say that he appreciated the book and had sent his copy on to the family archives at the University of California, Berkley. We are very pleased to learn about the Zellerbach archives and even happier to know that our work has become part of the family's official historical record.

The book is still available in local libraries or by calling the office and mailing a check for \$40 (includes shipping) to PO Box 635, West Linn, OR 97068, or going to www.willamettefalls.org and ordering through Pay Pal. It can also be ordered and picked up at the new office in Oregon City. 503-650-9570

Carter to lead locks coalition

The One Willamette River Coalition, formerly the Oregon Solutions Willamette Falls Locks stakeholders' group, entered into an agreement with the Foundation in February to contract for coordination of the locks effort. Sandy Carter assumed the reins of the locks group in March as a subcontractor, working closely with Gary Schmidt, of Clackamas County Office of Public and Governmental Affairs on the transfer of leadership and the organization of a meeting with Senator Jeff Merkley. Starting in April, she conducted personal interviews with the OWRC organizations that will be advising and assisting her on strategies to ensure stable funding for locks operations in the future. Those organizations are the City of West Linn, the City of Oregon City, Clackamas County, METRO, the Port of Portland, Portland General Electric, Wilsonville Concrete Products, the State Marine Board and Oregon State Parks and Recreation. The information and ideas gleaned in the interviews has already been the catalyst for a strong re-engagement and a new surge of energy focused on enabling the increasing commercial use of the locks—a strategy that will incidentally benefit recreational uses and tourism around the falls.

Willamette Falls Locks update

With the elimination of all earmarks by Congress this winter, the Willamette Falls Locks returned to what the Corps of Engineers calls Caretaker Status, but with a difference this time. The COE is allowing a 'maintenance day' each month through September, and if commercial traffic needs to pass the falls, it can lock through on those days. This is a major improvement over the last time the locks failed to receive an allocation, and it may be directly related to the rehabilitation of the West Linn/Oregon City Arch Bridge. ODOT's contractor on the bridge work has subcontracted with an upriver barge company for parts of the work that must happen on-water, and the COE is accommodating those lockages on the maintenance days. On a sad note, the Lock Fest Planning Group cancelled the 2011 festival, formerly set for June 18, because of the inability of the COE to support canal operations on that Saturday. (It rained all day that day!) We are planning to have a great festival there again in 2012.

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

\$1,000 to \$4,999 Gold Partner \$5,000 and up Legacy Sponsor \$_____ Corporate Sponsor

I would prefer to be a Monthly Sustaining Donor at the \$_____ level.

NAME_____ EMAIL_____

ADDRESS_____

CITY/STATE/ZIP_____ PHONE_____

Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation is a 501(C)(3) nonprofit Oregon corporation established for educational purposes and heritage preservation.

Willamette Falls Heritage Foundation • P.O. Box 635 • West Linn, OR 97068

VoiceMail: 503.650.9570 • www.willamettefalls.org

Crown Zellerbach featured at Society for Industrial Archeology Seattle Conference

Believing that the oral history gained from workers puts the real meat on the bones of a corporation's history, Sandy Carter applied to the Society for Industrial Archeology for the honor of presenting a 20-minute paper at the organization's 40th national conference in Seattle in June. Carter's application was accepted and she spent most of the first week of June meeting other industrial history junkies and seeing historic industrial sights in the area, including the Snoqualmie Rail Museum, an abandoned Weyerhaeuser steam plant, the Boeing Payne Field manufacturing plant, and Seattle's municipal watershed and associated hydropower plant. Carter roomed with Susanna Kuo, the savior of the Lake Oswego Iron Furnace, who presented a paper on the furnace at the same morning session. Both papers were well-received and Carter and Kuo have been invited to submit them for publication in the SIA Journal, a prestigious publication of the Society.

Kinsman to fund Bull Run art catalog



"Bull Run's dramatic turbine room"
Oil painting by Kevin Farrell

With its June approval of our \$1,250 grant request, The Kinsman Foundation has ensured the completion of the "Art Contemplates Industry—Bull Run Powerhouse" art collection catalog, bringing closure to our third historic hydropower art project. Already the recipient of a \$500 grant from the County's Art Alliance, the project will again be blessed by the graphic design talent of Lisa Wilcox and the high quality printing of JDA Creative Color, printer of the T.W. Sullivan and Hawley Pulp and Paper Company publications.

Foundation involvement helps build a National Heritage Area

The Foundation is very well represented on the steering committee and subcommittees of the Willamette Falls Heritage Area Coalition (HAC), which recently incorporated as an Oregon nonprofit. Sandy Carter represents the One Willamette River Coalition (the Locks' stakeholders' group). West Linn Councilor Jody Carson co-chairs the steering group, representing the city of West Linn. Jim Mattis officially represents the Foundation. Mattis assisted the Management and Operations subcommittee with the non-profit filing and bylaws and Carter is working on the Themes subcommittee to develop content on the Locks for the coalition's upcoming feasibility study. The HAC sponsored the Arch Bridge Closing Ceremony on January 15 and held two well-attended public presentations in June at the Museum of the Oregon Territory, for local business owners and community groups. See the HAC website for more information. www.wfheritage.org

West Linn Centennial

Foundation President Roger Shepherd and ex-officio President Jody Carson are spearheading the effort to launch a West Linn Centennial Planning Committee. Initial meetings took place in the spring of 2011 for a community-wide celebration in 2013. See westlinnoregon.gov/centennialcelebration



A special thank you goes to Tamra Brosseau-Rooney for stepping in at the last minute to produce this newsletter. Tamra is a historic preservationist and the owner of Hausworx Sustainable Preservation.