

# ◆ Siuslaw Pioneer Museum News ◆

Quarterly Newsletter

Vol. 35 #1 Spring 2021



*Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Association, Inc.  
A non-profit 501(c) 3 organization*

## Our Mission

The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is an educational and repository facility that demonstrates the history, the vision, the vitality, and the values and culture of the peoples of the Siuslaw Valley and coastal region.

## Museum Hours

*The Board is waiting for further information from governmental agencies as to further hour and visitor expansion. The health and wellness of our volunteers and visitors is the utmost importance to us.  
Watch the Siuslaw News for updates.*

**Phone (541) 997-7884**

E-mail [spmuseum@oregonfast.net](mailto:spmuseum@oregonfast.net)  
[www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com](http://www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com)

<https://www.facebook.com/Siuslaw-Pioneer-Museum>

## Spring Calendar

**Apr 12 10am Board Mtg**  
**May 10 10am Board Mtg**  
**Jun 14 10am Board Mtg**  
**Jul 12 10am Board Mtg**

**Location of Board Meeting TBA**  
**Please contact museum for location**

## FROM YOUR BOARD PRESIDENT

**Remembering the many Faces of our Museum ..... Over time.**

Some are still with us and some are just memories, good memories....

In reminisce, I think back of Eileen Huntington, a city girl who married Judd Huntington, a North Fork rancher. At some point Eileen realized that the Siuslaw Pioneer Association had a lot of artifacts stored in barns all over this valley. She kept telling her friends about all of this stuff and the idea of a museum building blossomed. One of the groups she approached were the past presidents of the former Jaycee club here in Florence. This group pledged \$5,000.00 to her effort if she could secure a building within 5 years. Near the end of the fifth year, she managed to secure the Old New Life Lutheran Church building South of the bridge on 101. Not long after that the pioneers of the Siuslaw Valley had their first Museum building fully operational. Only one problem plagued them and that was even with great support from the community and the volunteers, visitorship was lacking. Just some of those hard-working volunteers are pictured here. By the year 2002, the Museum board was thinking hard about trying to get a location in Old Town. Pictured here are some of the great volunteers who carried the Museum through those early years are why we have the Museum we have today.

*(Continued on page...2)*



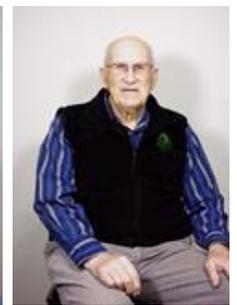
Left to right top row: Marvin Tipler, Greg Burbaugh, Del Phelps, Bud Miles, Wess Straughm, Bottom row: Blair Sneddon, Hal Hylton, Frank Suniga



Harry Zinn, a past board president and currently the operation Mgr.



Elsie Miles, Pioneer Miles family member contributed in many ways until her recent passing



The Jensen Brothers, Fred Left, Earl, Right

**From your Board President** (Continued from Page 1)

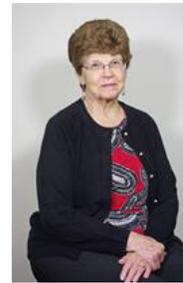
In the next Newsletter I will be paying tribute to several more. They have all contributed in so many different ways to help us get to what we have today. Some are still with us and some have passed on. I want them and their families to know they are not forgotten, and that they will be remembered in the annals of time. What a debt of gratitude we who are working with the Museum today, owe to those who came before us. We owe it to them to promote the memories and history of the Siuslaw region. We owe it to them to work hard to preserve what they started. I urge all who read this article to do just one simple thing. If you are not a member, please become a supporting member, or more if you can. When you are having a conversation with others, insert something about the Museum and what it offers. It would help our Museum so much if the membership dues each year would cover the operational expenses each year. If we could find just 200 more people who could believe that a family membership at only \$25.00/year in our Museum was a good thing, we could be truly self-sustaining. Please help us meet that goal for the Pioneer Museum.

I will be back next Newsletter with the rest of this story 2005 forward to present.

Yours Truly,  
Del Phelps,  
SPM Board President, 2021



Jean Campbell



Virginia Mason



Bob Richardson



Adele O'Boyle



Bob Jackson



Bud Miles



Louis & Pearl Campbell



Stu Johnson



Gloria Leet



**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION:**

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Make checks payable to: Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, and mail to:  
**Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, P.O. Box 2637, Florence, OR 97439**

- |                                  |                              |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>Individual:.....\$20.00</b>   | <b>Friend .....\$55.00</b>   |
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| <b>Organization .....\$30.00</b> | <b>Patron:..... \$165.00</b> |
| <b>Lifetime:.....\$1,100.00</b>  |                              |

## FACILITY UPDATE

Submitted by Craig Sanders

Since I joined the Board of the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum in early 2020, being appointed to several committees, numerous projects have taken place with the building.

We have been able to install zonal, ductless heat pumps in the building to replace the old, inefficient baseboard heaters. This allows us to keep the temperature at a more even level and helps to keep the humidity down. Because of the nature of the air-to-air heat pumps, the Museum is experiencing a substantial savings in cost of utilities over the expensive baseboard heaters.

We also have replaced all the old CFL and incandescent light bulbs with more energy efficient LED fixtures and bulbs. While not only saving money on the cost of lighting the Museum, but we were also able to make sure that all the lighting was in the same color temperature, which is brighter and has made everything look better.

The Building Committee is now working on gathering information on fire suppression systems and options for grants and sources of funding the anticipated \$65,000 cost. While investigating expansion of the Museum, it was determined that we needed to protect what we have before adding more space. The system being considered is a zonal type that will only open sprinkler heads in an area that reaches the high temperature that a fire produces.

## FINANCES AND MEMBERSHIP

Submitted by Lonnie Iholts

2020 was an interesting juggling exercise for the Museum financially. The Museum requires approximately \$26,000 annually to pay for utilities, insurance, supplies, and minor maintenance. The funding sources have been membership, admission fees, and donations. With the appearance of COVID-19 and the shutdown, we were closed for most of 2020 and the first two and a half months of 2021.

Admissions were down 90% in 2020 and unfortunately

membership renewals were only 75% of the prior year. The only bright spot was the generosity of two family trusts who contributed a combined \$10,000, which allowed us to break even.

The front page of the December newsletter made an appeal to the membership to renew for 2021 and so far, this year the renewals have matched the 2020 total. A strong increase in new business sponsors and patrons has given the Museum the resources to get ready for reopening in 2021. The addition of the new memberships has doubled the base of support and will be a blessing in future years.

We have implemented a new program of annual and one-time passes in 2021 that will be provided to all sponsors and patrons of the Museum. These can be used by the members as gifts or thank yous to their customers. It is hoped that this also will increase the volume of local visitors and give us the opportunity to share with them the history and culture of the Siuslaw Region.

## HERITAGE PLAYERS

Submitted by Annie Schmidt

Under the direction of Nancy Sobottka, the John Quay Heritage Players returned to life. Unfortunately, Nancy decided to make a change in her life and moved to California. She is missed.

Luckily, we have a strong leader in Betty Johnson, aka Elizabeth Ann Holverstatt Morris Morgan, who answered the call to step into some good-sized shoes. Betty has been a member of the Players since 2007, but even more importantly, a knowledgeable seamstress of vintage clothing. She has been a long-time member of the Single Action Shooters Society, also known as Cowboy Action Shooting.

With help from Sandy Zinn of the Museum Library (who is also not a slouch at the sewing machine), Betty is looking forward to being contacted for performance dates for the Players. She is set to go as soon as the restrictions

*(Continued on page 4)*

**Heritage Players** *(Continued from page 3)*

brought on by COVID-19 are reduced and gatherings are allowed.

As a perk of membership in the Museum, the Players are proposing a lottery of some type for all members, awarding the winner a private performance of one or more actors. This could be the highlight of an anniversary, birthday, picnic or any such celebration. We anticipate offering the lottery at least once a year and perhaps as often as three or four times as popularity and time allow.

**WELCOME OUR NEW TRUSTEES**

The following community members have joined the Board of Trustees. Annie Schmidt, Rick Yecny, John Barnes, and Tess Yahyazadeh.

*Annie Schmidt* retired to Florence in 1994 after a wonderful career of teaching, mainly in Germany. Besides being involved with several organizations in Florence such as the Florence Events Center and Western Lane Community Foundation, she was a founding member of the Last Resort Players and is currently filling the role of Lily Cox Hurd with the Museum's Heritage Players.

*Rick Yecny* moved to Florence in 1982 and was a partner in a Florence accounting firm until 2000 when he sold his practice and became the Chief Financial Officer for Peace Harbor Hospital. He currently serves on the Board of the Western Lane Ambulance District, Friends of Florence, Inc., and Oregon Pacific Bank. Rick is excited about being on the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Board and being involved in preserving the history and culture of our community and region while educating our community and visitors about our distant and recent past.

*John Barnes* has been involved with the Museum for many years as a docent since returning to Florence in 2014. He spent his career in forestry and served as the Cultural Resource Coordinator for the Oregon Department of Forestry researching and documenting pioneer homesteads, old logging camps, and Native American sites.

*Tess Yahyazadeh* - Rotarian and member of Soroptimist International. Current AVP Branch Manager for Banner Bank Florence branch. Recipient of Banners Best Leadership Award 2020. Expertise includes Business and Consumer Lending along with Business planning and development. With 25 years in the retail banking industry. Favorite quote "There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about" - Margaret Wheatley.

**OPERATIONS**

Submitted by Harry Zinn,  
Operations Manager/Volunteer Coordinator

**OPERATIONS**

Most of our many visitors comment on the number of our artifacts and displays and have stated that our Museum is the best they have visited.

Most of these visitors find us by viewing our website, seeing our building sign, on Facebook, and through the Chamber of Commerce website.

There are three displays that receive the most attention: the scale model sawmill, Jean's sewing room, and the covered bridge display. Our library staff recently updated and organized the logging display area in the main building, and we are adding to and updating our displays on a regular basis to preserve and present a fresh look to give our visitors a reason to come back and enjoy a new experience.

**VOLUNTEERS**

Our dedicated volunteers do a great job of informing our visitors about our local history and our Museum.

Currently we have 32 volunteers, including docents, Board members, library staff and the Heritage Players. We are continually seeking additional volunteers so tell your friends and neighbors.

**VISITORS**

Due to the unfortunate pandemic, we were not open for much of 2020 but have reopened in March. The Museum is open Thursday through Sunday of each week from noon till 4:00 pm. We have recently implemented a new procedure for sponsors and patrons of the Museum that use annual and one-time passes to share with their clients or friends.

## LIBRARY

Submitted by Steve Skidmore

Museum Library volunteers met on Thursday, February 11. In attendance were Maureen Courtney, Jim Hays, Joy McCourt, Steve Skidmore, Sharon Waite, and Sandy Zinn. The reports given by each individual follow below.

Maureen: the weeding of fiction books continues. Maureen has not been at the Library since November. She intends to return to regular duty in March.

Sharon: there is a new logging exhibit in the Museum. 95% of the logging exhibit has been entered into Past Perfect. It takes about 23 minutes to enter each exhibit item into the database. Summaries of area sawmills are part of the exhibit. These mills include Tidewater, Spruce Point, Oregon/California, Hurd, La Duke, and Davidson. An exhibit of fishing history will be next.

Sandy: our high school yearbooks (minus the five or six we are missing) have been sent to the Oklahoma prison system. They will digitize the yearbooks for us and then return when the project has been completed. We will receive three disks once the work is done: one for us, one for the high school, and one for the public library. Jodi O'Mara will contact Oklahoma prisons about digitizing the Mapleton yearbooks. There is no cost to the Museum for doing yearbooks after 1950. The cost is \$7 per volume for pre-1950 yearbooks. Harry and Sandy Zinn will underwrite the expense of pre-1950 volumes.

Joy: continues to clip *Siuslaw News* articles related to the Museum.

Jim: has not been to the Library in over a year but has been working at home--using Sanborn maps (fire insurance maps) and city directories to locate mills in the area.

Steve: reported that as of February meeting we still have not been able to open the Museum, based on the governor's guidelines. Since then we have been open with limited hours and occupancy.

*"Boy, are you endeavoring to entice the finny tribe from its aquatic haunts perchance to be allured by false attraction?"  
"Naw! I'm fishin!"*

*The Siuslaw Pioneer 1954  
(pioneer families stories), Pg 16*

## CURATOR'S REPORT

Submitted by Sandy Zinn

I'm sorry to start off on a sad note, but you need to know when we lose a valuable part of our Museum team. Pete Shoys has retired. As you know he has been our curator since Bill Tizzard moved to Nevada prior to the pandemic. Sandy Zinn had been Pete's assistant and she agreed to step in temporarily.

One of the curators' continuous dreams has been to begin using the new data-base for all of the artifacts on display in our museum. Sharon Waite and Sandy decided to honor our past curators, by beginning that project. We're so happy to report that one of the 15 individual display sections has been completed. The Museum's Logging section has 151 objects. This is a splendid beginning to a searchable data-base that also is creating our first inventory since opening at this location in 2005. The logging section was selected as our starting point because Sharon LaDuke Waite had agreed to join Sandy in this project and since Bloise LaDuke and the LaDuke family, Sharon's dad, had a sawmill here for many years, making this subject near and dear to our hearts. We've completed this section and it's kinda like giving birth. That was hard; do we want to start another section? However, we have already chosen to begin the Fishing section by mid April. If you'd like to HELP please let us know, remember many hands makes for a much lighter load. The articles that Joy McCourt has retrieved weekly for years from the Siuslaw News paper are being condensed starting with each of the mills from the Siuslaw region. We started with the first mill in Florence, the Duncan Mill and Cannery. Each of the major files now contains a summary of their contributing articles.

The new computers received last year are continuously in use with Hester Grove entering the "on display logging artifacts" into the data-base; Dixie Miles Buss working to enter recent artifact gifts; Sharon Waite using the laptop to enter and research articles onsite; and Sandy busy completing accession records on items that have been in storage. It's so nice to again be open.

## KUDOS

### Community Partnerships

Thank you to **Tess Yahyazadeh and Banner Bank** for use of their public meeting room for Museum Board and committee meetings

**Creative Wave Marketing** and **Uplink Spyder** for their untiring energy working on our new website.

Special thanks to **Dianna Kramer**, for her patience and expertise in taking a hodge podge of information and putting it into this newsletter.

### Gift in Memory

*Gary Clawson*  
**Mehlum Family Foundation**  
**Lonnie Iholts**

### Gifts in Appreciation

*Pete & Tina Shoys*  
**Lonnie Iholts**

Kudos is an opportunity for you to acknowledge those who have passed away, accomplished amazing things or simply reached a milestone in their life. Send your acknowledgment contribution along with name and reason, to Siuslaw Pioneer Museum, P O Box 2637, Florence Oregon 97439. If you have any questions or would like to discuss KUDOS you may contact Lonnie Iholts at 541-991-7760 or [lonnie@oregonfast.net](mailto:lonnie@oregonfast.net)

## NEW (N) AND RENEWED (R) MEMBERSHIPS LAST QUARTER

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### Sponsor

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 Dick Mason - Clarence and Nancy Lysdale - Frank & Beverly Kistner - Lyle & Arlene Hartzell - John Barnes  
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 Marsha & Dennis Klosterman - Joyce & Don Kelly - Florence Coastal Hardware - Harry & Sandy Zinn  
 Blair & Joyce Sneddon - Al & Audrey Pearn - Old Town Barbershop - Cathy Dupont & Robert Friedman - Gay Stender

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Treasurer/ Secretary:  
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John Barnes

Tess Yahyazadeh

Rick Yecny

Annie Schmidt

**Board Meetings are held  
the 2nd Monday of each month  
at 10:00 a.m.**

**Until further notice, call the  
museum for location.**

**These meetings are open  
to all members. Call ahead for  
space availability.**

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**Museum Research  
Library**

*By Appointment.*  
*Call Museum for requests*  
*541-997-7884*

**The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum News**  
is published quarterly by the  
Siuslaw Pioneer Museum  
**Editor: TBD**  
**Layout: Dianna Kramer**  
We reserve the right to edit or  
reject any article.

# STORY TIME

**Story Time at the museum  
has been cancelled until further notice.  
Stay safe and healthy.  
Watch the Siuslaw News for updates.**

.....  
*Please join us for Story Time at 7:00 pm on the last Friday of each month  
at the Museum.*

*The public is invited. Admission is free. Donations accepted.*

.....  
Please contact Del Phelps at 541-991-7787 or the museum at 541-997-7884 if  
you have a suggestion for a program. We would love to hear your story.

**Check out the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum's Website  
[www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com](http://www.SiuslawPioneerMuseum.com)**

**And our Facebook Page found under Siuslaw Pioneer Museum  
<https://www.facebook.com/Siuslaw-Pioneer-Museum>**

# ENDOWMENT FUND

An Endowment Fund in the  
Museum's name has been established  
with many financial gifts from our members.

Donors who wish to contribute to this fund should make the check

**payable to:**

**"Western Lane Community Foundation"**

and specify

**"Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Endowment"**

on the check.

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Siuslaw Pioneer Museum

P. O. Box 2637

Florence, OR 97439

*Please keep in mind that checks specified to the endowment are to be  
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***He Towed it Like A Log***

*William Barnhardt had to move a couch up river from Florence to Mapleton. It was too long to put on the boat endwise and give him room to steer, so he laid it crosswise. He got part way up river and his engine stopped. He had to lie across the couch to work at it, and finally, when he got it going again it started with a jerk and the couch slid off into the river with William on tip. Luckily the steering wheel was turned just enough so the boat went round and round him, and at last got near enough for him to reach it. He managed to get himself over into the boat, but the couch was so waterlogged he could not pull it in and so towed it the rest of the way to Mapleton.*

*The Siuslaw Pioneer 1951  
(Siuslaw National Forest & pioneer families), Pg 39*

To advertise in the Siuslaw Pioneer Museum Newsletter, see Membership Application on page 2 or contact the museum at 541-997-7884



The Siuslaw Pioneer Museum is located 2nd and Maple Streets in Old Town Florence. Call us at 541-997-7884



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