

Christmas at the Museum

Saturday, December 11, 2011

*The weather outside is rainy, windy and cold
But, to the Museum we all should go
The decorations are beautiful to behold
Please don't snow, Please don't snow, please don't snow*

We were all hoping for good weather. But O.K. we did get a just a bit of snow, but barely enough even to count. Certainly not enough to dampen the Christmas spirit and festivities happening at the Museum. We had a great turnout starting at 10 a.m. and a continuous flow of visitors throughout the day.

It was Dixie Brown's idea to have a Christmas Open House at the Museum and Heather Young jumped on board immediately to help with details. They were primarily responsible for getting the museum decked out with vintage and contemporary decorations. The Board of Directors and the Tuesday Crew offered up a variety of tasty cookies with eggnog, punch, hot apple cider and coffee to drink. Thank you to JL Richards for donating the cheese and sausage platter. A raffle basket, donated by JoAnn Swenson, Dixie Brown, and Pete Manderfield, featured a beautiful Christmas ornament, a bottle of wine, an orchid plant among several other items and was won by John Sams.

Thank you to Randy and Tina from OFroYo for stopping in with a generous donation.

We were pleased to see so many people attend and especially families who brought their young children for a museum experience.



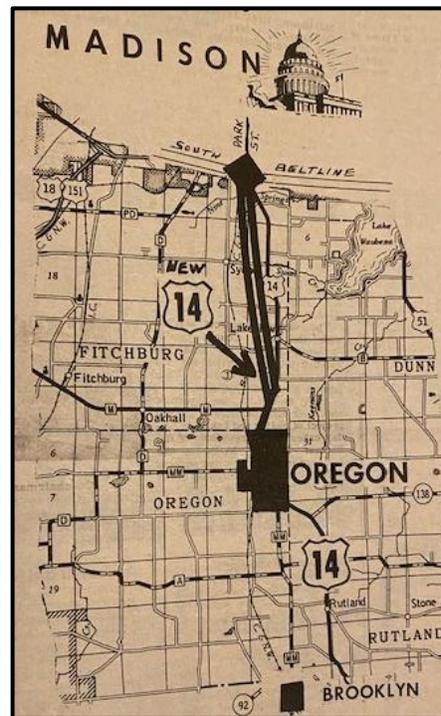


Plans for a new 4-lane highway connecting Madison to Oregon were announced by the State Highway Department in November, 1964. The project is scheduled to be completed in two phases, with the first phase running from Park Street in Madison to the northern edge of Oregon near Hwy M. The cost of the first phase was estimated at \$3 million in 1964. Land acquisition for the first phase will start in 1965 with actual construction to begin in 1968. The second phase will extend the 4-lane highway from Hwy M to Hwy 138.

From the November 13th and 20th, 1969 editions of the Oregon Observer, we find the details of the opening of the first phase of the new Highway 14 and the Grand Opening Ceremony that took place. Ceremonies began at the northern access point near McCoy Road at 10 a.m. The ceremony included a brief ribbon cutting, followed by remarks from state highway officials and dignitaries from Madison, Fitchburg and Oregon. After which, a cavalcade formed; comprised of representatives of various riding horse stables from Oregon, civic clubs, Oregon Chamber of Commerce directors, highway officials, state, county and local dignitaries and other spectators. The procession traveled southward to the Oregon access point. There, Village President F.E. Madsen was assisted by 1969 Miss Oregon, Nancy Stoneman, in the ribbon cutting. The ribbon was held by two mounted riders, recognizing "Oregon-The Horse Capital of Wisconsin."

The entourage then continued on to the downtown Waterman Park escorted by the Oregon High School marching band for the formal program. After the national anthem was played by the band and the invocation given by Rev. Fred Loutsenhizer, the official welcome to Oregon was given by F E Madsen, followed by an introduction of guests by Dr. Wischhoff. Miss Oregon presented the keys to the village to State Treasurer Harold Clemens; and to Madison Mayor Wm Dyke, Fitchburg Town Chairman, Wm McKee and to other dignitaries. Mr. Clemens was the featured speaker of the day. He congratulated Oregon on the new era the new highway is predicted to bring. He stated that as the keeper of the state's public funds, he felt the new freeway was "a good buy."

The ceremonies concluded with a buffet dinner held at the Oregon Bowl for the speakers, guests, highway representatives, and state, county and local dignitaries. It was catered by Jay Bossingham and staff.



The achievement of the new Hwy14 freeway connection between Madison and Oregon is a direct result of cooperation and joint planning by federal, state, county and local officials and citizens. There are many benefits to be realized from this cooperative venture in highway modernization, with the citizens and government as both the present and future benefactors. More travelers, more commuters and tourists, can now move through this section of highway with greater ease – to work and shop, to move goods and perform services.

I join you in spirit and through this greeting, and I share the pride and accomplishment that is yours today.

WARREN P. KNOWLES
Governor of Wisconsin

There were other notable events taking place in 1969 in addition to the new Hwy 14 opening, which is featured in a separate article in the newsletter. Do you remember these? Please enjoy a few nostalgic memories from 1969.

- ❖ Mr. and Mrs. Earl Wheeler attended the inauguration of Richard Nixon and Spiro Agnew in Washington, DC on January 20th
- ❖ The Bank of Oregon introduced the Golden Passbook savings instrument earning 5% (5.13% APR). Withdrawals are allowed within 10 days of each quarterly interest payment dates (1st of Jan., Apr., July, Oct.) .
- ❖ Paul's Supermarket advertised angel food cake mixes for 49 cents and Plantation ice cream for 59 cents for a half gallon.
- ❖ Nancy Stoneman was crowned "Miss Oregon 1969". She was chosen from a field of nine contestants who competed in a series of interviews and talent presentations. Nancy will receive a \$200 scholarship from the Chamber of Commerce and a \$100 wardrobe donated by Paul's Supermarket and the House of Home Fashions .
- ❖ Carl Paine, president of C&P Food Centers announced the purchase of the former Oregon Supermarket at 114 N. Main St. Clem Heinzl is manager of the store, Bob Kopp, meat manager and clerks are Nellie Thornton, June Heinzl and Eleanor McClure.
- ❖ Commencement exercises took place for 133 OHS students. Valedictorian Tom Appel, Salutatorian Gary Johnson and Class President Richard Heller spoke at the ceremonies.
- ❖ An Open House at Lapple Chevrolet introduced the new 1970 Monte Carlo coupe. It is advertised as blending

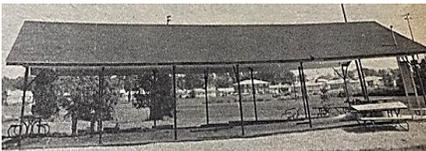


action and elegance in a sporty personal luxury car. There is one model—a two door hardtop coupe that has the longest hood of any car in Chevrolet history – a full 6 feet from grill to the concealed windshield wipers.

- ❖ Dr. Dukerschein and family have moved to Berlin, Wi, his former hometown. He came to Oregon from Mason City, IA in 1957 to become associated with Dr. L.S. Kellogg in their office in the Netherwood Block.
- ❖ Chuck McMannes is the new owner of the Shell Service Station on

Oregon's north side. The previous owner was Shorty Erfurth.

- ❖ Floor plans for the new elementary school addition to be built on the northwest corner of the present elementary school and plans for a proposed expansion of the present high school were revealed. A \$1.6 million referendum is scheduled for July 1.



- ❖ Oregon Brooklyn Jaycees are building a shelter at the Village's Kiser Park east of the swimming pool. When completed it will be a gift to the Village.

- ❖ The Oregon Rotary Club observes its 25th anniversary.

Owen Richards, past president, treasurer and only active charter member, lit the candle in the center of the cake. He was presented a 25-year pin and plaque.



- ❖ The Roeber Pharmacy firm has purchased the Lawson Drug Store. Planning to stay active in the Oregon community, Earl Lawson served several terms on the Village Board and is a past president of the Oregon Rotary and Oregon Chamber of Commerce.

- ❖ Oregon Heating & Sheetmetal moved to their new location at 742 Market St. Open House specials included room air conditioners ranging in price based on BTUs from \$139 to \$219 and a Lennox 18,000 BTU central air conditioning unit for \$395.

- ❖ Pennies Days will feature a big sidewalk sale, a donkey softball game and watermelon slices for just a penny.
- ❖ Father Monroe of Holy Mother of Consolation Church suggested a Welcome to Oregon sign be located off the new Hwy 14 exit with the slogan on it: "If you lived in Oregon, you would be home now".
- ❖ Umbrellas were paraded at the Oregon Eastern Star card party. Prizes were awarded to Matilda Jensen for her 70-year old umbrella; to Agnes Kivlin and JoAnn Helgeson for the prettiest umbrellas and to Mrs. LuJean Smith for "most useless" umbrella.
- ❖ The Squire, a new men and boy's clothing store will open in the former Schroeder Pharmacy building on S. Main.
- ❖ Don's Barber Shop will open located at the corner of Spring and Janesville Streets
- ❖ Charter Night was celebrated by the Optimist Club of Oregon held at the Fitchburg Town Hall on October 4th.

CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS AROUND THE WORLD

SWEDEN: For hundreds of years, one of the traditions was the Yule goat. The Yule goat was supposed to help deliver presents, so sometimes Santa Claus would ride a goat instead of a sleigh. In 1966, the town of Gavle wanted something Christmas-y for the town square and a giant Yule goat seemed like a good idea. But maybe it wasn't the best idea to make the goat out of flammable straw. Still the first Gavle goat made it to New Year's Eve before being burned down. Other years have not been so lucky. The town tried lots of different ways to protect their goat – guards, security cameras, fences, spraying the goat with water and flameproof chemicals. Some years the goat survived the whole holiday season – but most years, it didn't. The 50th anniversary of the Yule goat was celebrated in 2016. On November 27, the goat statue was unveiled – by that night, it was up in flames.



GERMANY: In the weeks leading up to Christmas, homes are filled with the delightful smells of baking loaves of sweet breads, cakes filled with candied fruits, and spicy cookies called lebkuchen. Stollen is a favorite pastry and marzipan confections in the shape of fruits and animals fill bakery windows. Christmas trees are very important – used first in Germany in the Middle Ages. Just after dark on Christmas Eve, a bell rings and excited children run into the room to see the tree, to exchange gifts, recite poems and sing carols. Then everyone enjoys a feast of roast goose, turkey or duck.

JAPAN: Christmas has only been celebrated in Japan for the last few decades. It's still not seen as a religious holiday; but several customs that came to Japan from the U.S. such as sending Christmas cards and exchanging presents are popular. In Japan, Christmas is known as more of a time to spread happiness. Young couples like to go for walks to look at the Christmas lights and have a romantic meal in a restaurant. The favorite meal consists of fried chicken. It's the busiest time of the year for KFC restaurants. One piece of music is especially famous around Christmas – Beethoven's Ninth Symphony and its final act the "Ode to Joy". Another popular activity in Japan at Christmas is visiting Tokyo Disneyland which opened in 1983.



DENMARK: It is an old, traditional custom to give animals a treat on Christmas Eve., so some people go for a walk in the park or woods and take some food along to give the animals and birds. Popular Christmas foods include roast duck, goose or pork; served with boiled and sweet potatoes, red cabbage, beetroot and cranberry sauce. 'Ris a la mande' is a special rice pudding made of milk, rice, vanilla and whipped cream and served as dessert. One of the traditions in Denmark involved a "nisse", a small Danish mythical creature that you would definitely want to stay best friends with since he was able to control your fortune. This gave rise to the tradition of putting porridge out for the nisse on Christmas Eve. A special Danish tradition is the various Christmas beers brewed and sold only at Christmas time.

CHINA: Christians in China call Christmas Sheng Dan Jieh, (Holy Birth Festival). Homes are decorated with evergreens, posters and bright paper chains. The family puts up a Christmas tree, called "tree of light" and decorates with beautiful lanterns, flowers and red paper chains that symbolize happiness. The Christmas season is ushered in with fireworks. Jugglers and acrobats entertain, and people enjoy the merriment and feasting. Children hang up their muslin stockings on Christmas Eve so Dun Che Lao Ren (translated – "Christmas Old Man") can fill them with wonderful gifts. The Chinese lunar New Year, or Spring Festival, begins in late January or early February and lasts for 3 days and is the most important celebration of the Chinese. Families watch the spectacular fireworks displays and the exciting "lion dance" where several performers dance inside an enormous costume and make the "lion" walk, slither, glide, leap and crouch along the street as it leads a colorful procession.



NETHERLANDS: Dutch children look forward to the arrival of the Sinterklaas. He is a kindly bishop, wears a red robe and a tall, pointed mitre on his head. Sinterklaas travels by ship from Spain to Amsterdam's harbor every winter. With him he brings his white horse and a huge sack of gifts. Families celebrate St. Nicholas Eve with lots of good food, hot chocolate and a "letter cake". A letter cake is made in the shape of the first letter of the family's last name. Then the gifts come out – each carefully chosen and accompanied by a personal verse written by the giver about the recipient. All of the gifts are signed "Sinterklaas" even though they are from family and friends. The way they are wrapped is always a surprise. A small gift might be hidden in a potato or a big gift might be kept a surprise by hiding it in the attic. The recipient receives a smaller gift that contains a note telling where to find the real package.

THANK YOU

The Oregon Area Historical Society and Museum exists through the membership dues and donations of our members. This year, more than any other I can remember, your support has helped us overcome our inability to hold any of our usual fund raising activities due to the Covid pandemic. So, with our sincere gratitude, our first 'Thank You' goes to you - OUR MEMBERS.

Officers and Directors of OHS Board of

Directors: Dave Gasner, Gerard Pehler, Pete Manderfield, Joel Olsen, Pat Wilkening, Deana Fischer, Deana Zentner, Mary Norwell

Volunteers: Melanie, Woodworth, Sheryl Lindmeier (website), Gerald Neath (History Timeline), Dixie Brown, Mary Norwell, Heather Young, Pete Manderfield, Joel Olsen, JoAnn Swenson (newsletter), Carol Wichmann, Dennis and Lynda Farrar, Kermit and Beth Traska,

Donors and Support: Phil Peterson (dairy display); Ray Antoniewicz (horse display); Barry Stables (horse display); Bob Block and Dan Orloff (mannequin stands); Oregon Observer (coverage of OAHS activities & monthly publishing Oregon History timeline); Oregon Chamber of Commerce (inclusion in annual Chamber booklet – 2 pages); Chad Wachtl/Torhorst Insurance (new hidden medallion scavenger hunt and providing gift cards to Firefly and Lil' Buddy's Popcorn to participants); Oregon Frozen Yogurt (providing ice cream to monthly winners of the Museum Scavenger Hunt); everyone who donated artifacts and historical items; The UPS Store (printing, picture reproductions); Pat Wilkening (donating bench in honor of husband, Al); Chris Richardson & Marc Hoffman (donating time and material to install the bench); Dave and Kathy Batker for the handmade train set, water tower and windmill that will sit atop the railroad diorama; and to the 2 Anonymous Donors who created a matching donor program and donated \$1,000 each; and to each and every donor who contributed to our reaching the goal

A special recognition to ANN RICHARDSON MORRIS. for her contributions and support of the Oregon Area Historical Society. She made enormous contributions with her service on the Board of Directors, serving as Secretary to the Board, a Tuesday Crew Volunteer, Card Party hostess, and dedicated volunteer for all of the activities held by the Historical Society. Ann shared her prized collection of Raggedy Ann and Raggedy Andy dolls, which we are proudly displaying in the Toys and Games area of the museum. She inspired us all and we miss her greatly. Not the least of her contributions was her love and desire to see the museum continue to operate and flourish by making the Historical Society a beneficiary of her Thrivent account.

On August 14th, friends and relatives gathered on the grounds of the Museum for a Celebration of Life for Ann. OAHS received numerous and generous donations in memory of Ann. We miss her presence among us, but we know that she lives in spirit with us in our endeavors to keep Oregon's history alive.

\$2000 Matching Fund

Two anonymous donors pledged \$1000 each toward a matching fund. To receive the pledged amounts, we needed to seek matching donations equal to the \$2000 by December 31st. I am happy to report that we did meet and exceeded the goal of raising \$2000 !!

What an amazing idea from the two anonymous donors and what an amazing response we received from our members, the Oregon area community.

THE HITCHING POST



Quarterly Newsletter Sept, Oct, Nov & Dec 2021
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*WISHING YOU AND YOUR LOVED
ONES A NEW YEAR FILLED WITH
JOY, HAPPINESS AND GOOD
HEALTH -*

OREGON AREA HISTORICAL SOCIETY
