



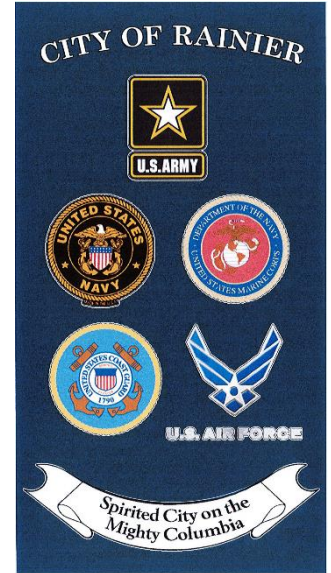
"Preserving the past for the future"

www.rainiermuseum.org / ROHM, PO Box 762, Rainier, OR 97048



The City of Rainier
Cordially invites the community to the
Historical City Banner Celebration
April 15, 2023

Opening ceremonies will start at 11:00 a.m. at the west end of Rainier City Park, near Veterans Way and the parking lot. This is to celebrate the installation of 23 historical banners along "A" and "B" Streets. There will be booths, a treasure hunt for commemorative wooden tokens for children, the passing out of commemorative coins by the city and other fun activities. See Kay Heflin's President's report on page 3 for further details. See you there!



Albert Atkinson
By Mike Clark

In 2010 I acquired two letters written by Dean Blanchard. Blanchard was an early pioneer who, during the latter eighteenth century, helped shape Rainier, Oregon, into the town that it is known today. In his 1918 obituary, he was identified as the "Builder and Father of Rainier." Both letters were sent to Benj. F. Atkinson in Farmington, Maine. The first letter was to establish contact. In the second Blanchard gave a heartfelt account of the June 21, 1868, death of Benjamin's younger brother Albert. The death was contributed to a horrific accident the day before at Blanchard's mill. The letter was reproduced here as written with the most noticeable errors identified with [sic].

Mr. Benj. F. Atkinson
Farmington, Maine

Rainier, Oregon. Jan 8th 1870

Dr Sir

Your letter of the 12th ultimo was received yesterday and I hasten to reply lest if I delay for time I shall neglect it, as I have the answer to your former letter which was duly received but which I laid by for time to answer, and have neglected too long, as I can imagine the anxiety you must feel to have the particulars of your brothers death - and in apology I will say my absence from home so much of my time and so much to attend to when at home has caused me to neglect it so long I fear you will accuse me of indifference [sic], which however I assure you is not the case as the esteem I had for your brother would prompt me to do what little I can for his friends and connections if nothing else would.

The first acquaintance I had with your brother was in April 1866 when he came here with a man by the name of Grounds with whom he had been in partnership some four or five years in Eastern Oregon and Idaho in the mining country they had been lumbering some there also teaming - they came here at that time to build a large flat-boat for the purpose of boating on the river and I furnished them with the lumber they built the boat and run her nearly two years but did not make anything as they had the misfortune to sink her once or twice and lost their loads - finally in May 1868 your brother sold out to his partner and came down here and was looking around to find a place to start a logging [sic] team making my house his head quarters for the time - In June I had some repairs done to my engines and the engineer got up steam on the 20th of June to try them it was near night and as your brother was helping him put on a small belt that drove a pump it run off the pulley and commenced winding around the shaft which was the main driving shaft of the mill and running with considerable velocity Albert unthoughtedly caught hold of the belt which wound his hand in threw him over the shaft carrying him under the pulley between it and the timber, which could not have been more than nine or ten inches from the pulley, and threw him back tearing his arm off just below the sholder [sic] leaving his arm wound in the belt and strange to say though he must



Dean Blanchard

have been crushed and bruised internally he was conscious and said at once, oh my poor arm, I ought to have known better he was taken to the store and a doctor sent for to Monticello a distance of three miles but the doctor there said he could do no good and would not come so the steamer lying there got up steam came over here and took him to Portland in the night where the best sergical [sic] and medical attendance that could be had was procured and he was taken the best of care of - his arm was amputated at the shoulder joint and he stood the opperation [sic] so well that the doctors had strong hopes of his recovery - but towards night he gradually sank and died at fifteen minutes before eight on Sunday evening the 21st of June 1868 - He was conscious all the time (except while under the opperation) [sic] and conversed frequently with those around him. I regretted exceedingly that I was absent at the time but those here new [sic] well that no pains or expense should be spared to alleviate his sufferings or to save his life if possible. I arrived home and went to Portland on Monday but too late to see him alive - I purchased a lot in Lone Fir Cemetery in East Portland (which was the South half of Lot No 8 in Block No 6) where he was buried on Tuesday the 23d the Rev Mr. Elliott of the Uniterian Church preaching his funeral sermon at the house, and accompanying him to the grave, with many friends and acquaintances.

Alberts character was unexceptionable, steady temperate quiet and pleasant, esteemed and respected by all who knew him - he had probably not succeeded according to his expectations on this coast which may in a measure account for his not corresponding more with his friends east, he had some little means by him enough perhaps to cover the necessary expenses and a few notes one of \$200 - given by his partner and one by a party in Idaho whom I do not know - I have been appointed administrator of his estate and if I succeed in collecting the notes may have more than enough to pay all demands and costs of administration - The court delayed a long time in making an appointment and I have filed no account yet and do not know exactly how it will stand - as soon as I do I will write and let you know

Very Respectfully Yours
Dean Blanchard

Albert Atkinson's burial at the Lone Fir Cemetery in Portland became a mystery. Records at the Cemeteries Office at Metro indicated three plots had been purchased in Albert's name, but no mention that Albert had been buried in either one. With no record of use, the spaces were reclaimed as abandoned in 2014. Upon reviewing the Blanchard letter, the Cemeteries Office decided "not to use the three burial spaces purchased by Mr. Atkinson due to the possibility that he was buried in one of them." In September 2021, Lindsay Gillis, related to the Atkinson family, found me while during her own research. She is presently working with the Friends of Lone Fir Cemetery to place a marker at Albert's grave.

Museum Building Update

As we approach our groundbreaking for the new museum, I am going to try to keep everyone in the loop. And the closer we get to that time, the faster things will be changing. This is an exciting time for all of us, but especially for your board of directors who have worked tirelessly on plans, funding, and permits, etc. There are many special meetings and phone conferences as we try to rush things ahead. It seems to me that things should be moving faster, but that may be because I'm now the project manager of this undertaking, and it's my job to keep things moving and at a reasonable cost. The museum site was tested by a Geotech firm March 1 and we're hoping to receive the city's land use permit once the results are known. Next will come the county's building permit, and we foresee no big holdups there. Our architect estimates the groundbreaking to be about May or June, but there may be many things beyond our control that delay this. (I was hoping for last month) but we will get there, that's the most exciting thing I can tell you now, except that we will have a dynamic groundbreaking ceremony like no other. More on that later. Thanks....

Duane Bernard, ROHM VP

President's Message

by Kay Heflin, ROHM President

Much appreciation goes to museum board members, Delyla Laughlin, Sherry Evans and volunteer members, Marilyn Van Natta and Chris McDonald. They have been meeting almost every Wednesday since last July to catalog our museum collection. Last year, we were accepted for a heritage grant from the state of Oregon through the Oregon Parks and Recreation Heritage Department. This grant made it possible for us to purchase \$2,143 in archival storage and supplies. In the coming weeks we will be moving our stored, cataloged collection into the new archival storage. Archival storage is very costly, but important, for museums to use to preserve their collections. More than 3,500 volunteer hours will be used before this project is completed.

I can't say enough about how hard our ROHM board and our member volunteers work. Events held since our last newsletter were the Fall Bazaar at the Senior Center, Veterans Event, and a spaghetti feed at the Rainier Briarcliff commons in January. We are planning to take part in Rainier Revisited on April 22. The process of building our new museum will continue with future fund raisers and applying for grants.

I also want to thank the Kenny Vance family for thinking of the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum as a choice for their friends and family to make contributions to our museum building fund in memory of Kenny. Donations made in Kenny Vance's memory raised \$1,525 for building our new museum. The accumulated donations allowed Kenny's name to be engraved on our building fund plaque.

Currently our museum is working with the city of Rainier in planning a historical city banner celebration that will be held April 15. Opening ceremonies will start at 11:00 a.m. at the west end of Rainier City Park, near Veterans Way and the parking lot. There will be a total of 23 banners installed on "A" and "B" Streets. Half of these banners are historical pictures that our museum shared with the city that depict early pictures showing what was located where these banners will be hung. Our museum will have a table display and a treasure hunt for commemorative wooden tokens for children, and the city will be passing out commemorative coins. Jerry Kelly will have his "What Is It?" collection of unusual old tools and gadgets. The Rainier Jr./Sr. High School History Club will be involved and dressed in period clothing. One of the history club members will be dressed as Rainier's long-time city marshal, James Jesse. Other activities for this event are in the planning stages.

A new, exciting, but lengthy, project for ROHM: Mike Clark, ROHM historian and myself, Kay Heflin, are currently working with County Commissioner Casey Garrett and Les Watters, Curator of the St. Helens Columbia County Museum Association, to create historical picture kiosks that will be placed along Rainier's waterfront path.

Our Architect, Matt Alexander, from Lower Columbia Engineering, presented our land use permit to the city planning commission on January 10th. After the end of the presentation, the commissioners and the audience applauded. Matt said he has been to many hearings, and he has never seen applause. Matt said our city is definitely behind us. We are very grateful for the support from our city and its residents.

This will be the last newsletter you will receive if you haven't renewed your membership for 2023. Your membership will expire on March 31, 2023. If you have any questions, or if your membership is about to expire, please contact me by email kay-lynn2@hotmail.com or Phone 230-751-7039. Your continued support is very important to our museum.

Spaghetti Dinner Fundraiser for ROHM

By Sherry Evans



Alice Redding and Tunie Betschart

The ROHM board members and several volunteers raised about \$1,100 for the building fund at a spaghetti dinner on January 26, 2023. The dinner was held in the Briarcliff Commons cafeteria, during Rainier's basketball game with Warrenton. All the food and labor was donated by board members and volunteers, and cooked at the school with great assistance from Food Service Manager, Debby Webster and crew member Lizzy.

The evening created a great feeling of community with many people coming out to eat and visiting with friends and acquaintances they had not seen for a while. At the end of the night, we were able to serve several hungry students for free with the leftover food that was already cooked, but that we didn't want to throw away. After serving the fresh leftovers and cleaning up, we donated our centerpieces, some frozen meat, several unopened noodle packages to the school's History Club for their February 11 Spaghetti Feed, and the fresh salad to the Methodist church who was serving a free community dinner the next night.

In addition to all the ROHM board members, special thanks goes to volunteers Alice Redding, Pat and Tim Valpiani, and Carol Everman.

Upcoming ROHM fundraisers include selling personalized patio bricks, an ongoing raffle basket, ongoing coin buckets at various businesses around town, and completing current and future grants.

Museum Money Matters

By ROHM Treasurer Martha Van Natta

Memberships:

Museum membership are \$25 per year. Twenty-five dollars pays for your whole household. You can mark "individual" or "family" on the membership application. If you mark "individual," the membership is just for you only.

Life Memberships:

Would you like to not have to worry about museum dues? You can purchase a life membership for \$500, and you will receive our newsletter for the rest of your life! If that is too much all at once, you can pledge \$100 a month to be paid within one year of the date pledged. You can skip a month or two if you need to, just as long as you pay the \$500 within a year. If you don't, then any payments received would be credited to future years' dues. You will find a pledge form on the top of the back of the membership/renewal application.

Building Fund Plaque:

Your name could be engraved on a small, metal plate and placed on our building fund plaque for a donation to the museum of \$500. You can pledge \$100 a month to be paid within one year of the date pledged. Again, this form is on the top back of the membership renewal application.

Memorial Memberships:

You can remember your loved one by donating \$500 minimum to the museum. After we receive your check, your loved one's name will be engraved on a small, metal plate and placed on the memorial plaque. We need the person's name, birth year, and death year. Two lines are allowed for this: one for the name and one for the birth and death years.

Other Ways to Give to the Museum:

You can give when you renew your membership. Just fill in the blanks on our application under "Tax-Deductible Donations." Building Fund donations go into our building fund savings to help build our new museum or associated expenses. Regular donations go into our general fund checking account to help the museum meet its operating expenses.

You can place money in our donation cans. There is one at the museum. There are always donation cans at our museum events, and there are donation cans in some of the businesses in Downtown Rainier. These funds are collected and deposited to our building fund. Any time we receive extra funds that are not designated, we deposit these to our building fund.

If you have any questions, you can contact the museum at kay-lynn2@hotmail.com.

In memory of our ROHM members who recently passed:

Charles Skeans

February 14, 1928 - November 10, 2022

A 1946 graduate of Rainier Union High School, and life member and donor to ROHM

Jerald "Jerry" Davis

November 17, 1941 - March 1, 2023

A 1961 graduate of Rainier Union High School, and donor to the ROHM museum building fund



Rainier Days in the Park and the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum are proud to announce that Delbert Larson has been selected as the 2023 Grand Marshal.

Delbert Larson was born in Portland, Oregon, and raised in St. Helens, Oregon. He served in the Navy from 1962 to 1966.

Del moved to Rainier in 1967, and married his late wife, Linda Larson, in 1968. He was a volunteer fireman from 1984 to 2004. Del has been a member of the Rainier Eagles since 1991.

Del served and delivered meals for the Meals-On-Wheels program through the Rainier Senior Center from 2011 through 2021. Also, he is a current member of the Rainier Oregon Historical Museum. Del is an avid reader. He is a very friendly person and enjoys helping people.

Calendar of Events 2023

April 15	Rainier Historical City Banner Celebration at west end of Rainier City Park, near Veterans Way and the parking lot, beginning at 11:00 a.m.
April 22	Rainier Revisited at the Beaver Homes Grange, put on by the Rainier History Club (Rainier Junior High/Senior High Schools) from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
July 7-9	Rainier Days in the Park , The museum will have a booth at the west end of A Street. Be sure to stop by and visit us. Come by our booth for the Meet and Greet and visit with the Rainier Daze parade Grant Marshal, Delbert Larson. We will have a raffle basket and museum items for sale.
July 30	Rainier All-Class Alumni Picnic at Hudson-Parker Park running from noon to four. Bring your favorite picnic food for the buffet and some lawn chairs. The picnic tables fill up quickly. Free coffee and water and tableware will be provided. The picnic tables fill up quickly. Come visit with your old classmates. The winner of our raffle basket will be announced
September 17	Logging Event. Jay Critchley will present his one-hour documentary about wigwam burners and the logging industry, "Fireflies in the Night: The Great Wigwam Burner." Time to be determined at a later date.
November 4	Rainier Senior Center Holiday Bazaar at the Rainier Senior Center. 9 to 3. The museum will have a table with baked goodies for sale and a raffle basket.
November 11	Veterans Day Celebration to honor local veterans at the museum from noon to four. We will have over 100 pictures of local veterans on display.

NEW MEMBERS SINCE LAST NEWSLETTER

(through to March 1, 2023)

We have 296 memberships* now.

Dylan Crawford & Danielle Bogos
 Janice Elbert
 Ken & Bonnie Gaston
 Harold Gore
 Erik & Dawnielle Nevill
 Robert & Dorothy Massey
 Margaret Mickley
 Les & Ryan Tipton
 Jeri Lyn Weigant & Don Carnahan

HONORARY MEMBERS

Columbia County Museum Association
 Betsy Johnson
 Steve and Jan Oliva
 Vernonia Pioneer Museum Association

LIFETIME MEMBERS

Mike Avent
 Greg Beck
 Lawrence (Buzz) & Alice Beck
 Alfred S. Berg
 Harold & Elaine Davis
 Carol Girt
 William & Mary Harrison
 Rosalie Herstrom
 Robert & Dorothy Massey
 Sloan & Jennifer Nelson
 Mark & Sue Pitra
 Rainier Masonic Lodge #24
 Dale Strom
 Teevin Bros.
 Pat Valpiani
 Robert & Martha Van Natta

* Memberships can be an individual member, a couple, or a family. All paid and honorary members will receive our newsletter.

Contact information: ROHM President Kay Heflin: kay-lynn2@hotmail.com or 360-751-7039.

This issue was produced by ROHM President Kay Heflin, Newsletter Editor Mike Clark, and Assistant Editor and Proofreader Martha Van Natta. Uncredited photos were contributed by interested parties.