

Oregon State Capitol Foundation

Volume 11, Number 1

Spring Newsletter
March 2011



Inside this newsletter

Heritage Programs Fair	2
Pacific Wonderland Licenses	2
Mark Your Calendar	2
Earthquake Awareness Month	2
Thank You for Your Support.....	3
Become a Capitol Friend	3
In Memoriam	4



This newsletter is a quarterly publication of the **Oregon State Capitol Foundation (OSCF)**.

The **OSCF** is a tax exempt organization dedicated to preserving and enhancing the historical integrity of the Oregon State Capitol.

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REUNION ENJOYED BY ALL

The fourth Capitol Alumni Reunion held in December brought many, can we say “experienced,” faces back to the capitol building. Friendships and acquaintances from 30 years or more were reestablished, and the Capitol Foundation’s programs to collect and preserve the history of the Capitol and the activities therein profited.

Our major fund raising event was the sale of raffle tickets for a Caribbean Cruise. Irv Fletcher, a long time regular at the Capitol Building, initially as a distinguished representative of organized labor and later as a legislative staffer, was the raffle winner. A tip of the hat to Sandy Allen and her committee for their dedicated volunteer work on the event.

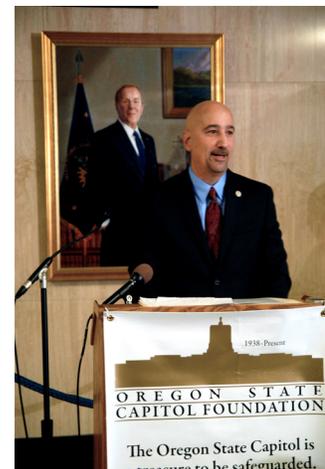
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KULONGOSKI PORTRAIT

The week prior to completing his 2nd term as Oregon Governor, the Oregon

State Capitol Foundation held a ceremonial “hanging” of Governor Ted Kulongoski’s portrait in the hall near the Senate Chamber. A couple hundred fellow citizens and 4 former governor’s joined the event honoring our retiring governor.



In the photo above, Portland artist Eduardo Fernandez explains to the audience the features in the portrait, which include an Oregon Military flag, law books, the Scales of Justice, and a wall painting of an Oregon mountain. These and other features highlight points in the Governor’s unique and extensive contribution to Oregon with service in the Oregon House of Representatives, the Oregon Senate, as Insurance Commissioner, Attorney General and Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court, as well as the 36th Governor.

###



HERITAGE PROGRAM MAY 12TH

On May 12, Heritage Programs, a division of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, will host a preservation Month Fair at the State Capitol State Park in Salem. Community organizations from around the area and several state agencies will provide information about their efforts to help preserve Oregon's historic places.

The event will be held from 11:00 a.m. until 1:00 p.m. on the grounds of the State Capitol on the north side of Court Street, opposite the Capitol building.

Nineteen participating organizations will highlight the history of their institutions and their local and statewide work to preserve important sites related to Oregon's historic events, persons, and places.

Participating exhibitors include the Willamette Heritage Center, Salem Landmarks Commission, Deepwood Estates, Willamette University Archives, Oregon State Hospital Museum, Oregon Military Museum, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Cultural Trust, The Historic Preservation League of Oregon, the National Trust, Oregon Department of Transportation, Oregon State Archives, Oregon State Library, Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council, Oregon Historic Cemetery Program and the National Register of Historic Places Program. New this year, the students of Clatsop Community College will demonstrate traditional building techniques during the event.

As part of the event, the Oregon State Capitol will offer a free 30-minute tour of the building at 11:00 a.m., including a 121-step climb to see the "Oregon Pioneer," which stands atop the building, plus the spectacular view of the city and the surrounding area.

Following the climb, personnel from the State Capitol State Park will guide

visitors through the history of the grounds at 12:00 p.m.

Those interested in participating in the Capitol building tour should meet 20 minutes early at the information kiosk on the 1st floor. The tour of the grounds will begin across the street at the Historic Preservation Fair.

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PACIFIC WONDERLAND LICENSE PLATE SALES CONTINUE

The Pacific Wonderland license plate sales are a wonderful fund raiser for the Oregon Historical Society and the Capitol Foundation. The good news is that sales of new plates continue to occur each month.



Funds from the sale of new plates come only to the Oregon Historical Society and Capitol Foundation. On renewal, plates cost the same as "regular issue" plates, and all the renewal money goes to the Department of Transportation. About 8,000 plates of the 40,000 authorized by the 2009 Legislature have been sold, so supporters of the preservation of our history should continue to promote their sale.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
DENNY JONES DAY AT THE
LEGISLATURE
May 26, 2011
Honoring his service in the Legislature
and his 100+ years in Oregon.

STATE OF OREGON PROCLAMATION OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

WHEREAS: Scientific evidence indicates that the State of Oregon is at risk for much larger and potentially more damaging earthquakes and tsunamis; and

WHEREAS: Oregon enacted laws in 1995 and 2001 that require schools, state and local agencies, and large private employers to instruct and drill students and employees on emergency procedures such as those related to earthquakes and tsunamis; and

WHEREAS: Seismic strengthening of existing buildings and public education on local tsunami evacuation is strongly encouraged to further reduce loss of life and property damage; and

WHEREAS: Oregon enacted laws in 2010 that require schools and emergency facilities to meet seismic life safety standards and in 2002 enacted laws that will provide state bond funds to help mitigate high risk schools and emergency facilities; and

WHEREAS: Emergency management agencies will highlight these preparedness and mitigation procedures and provide increased earthquake and tsunami information to Oregon residents and visitors in April.

NOW, THEREFORE: I, John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor of the State of Oregon, hereby proclaim **April 2011** to be

EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI AWARENESS MONTH

in Oregon and encourage all Oregonians to join in this observance.

SIGNED: John A. Kitzhaber, M.D., Governor & Kate Brown, Secretary of State.

Oregon State Capitol Foundation

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I am a new member.

I am renewing my membership for 2011.

Name(s) _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____ Phone _____ Email _____

Amount enclosed for membership dues: \$ _____ Amount enclosed for additional tax-deductible gift: \$ _____

Check payable to: **Fund for OSCF**

Please charge my bank card: Visa Mastercard

Bank Card #: _____ Expiration Date: _____

Billing Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Signature: _____

Mail to: Fund for OSCF, 900 Court St. NE, 140-A, Salem, OR 97301

State Employee Payroll Deduction Form available at: <http://www.leg.state.or.us/capinfo/>



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In Memoriam

Ron Blankenbaker



Ron Blankenbaker, longtime political columnist for the Salem Statesman-Journal, died recently at the age of 76. Ron “inhabited” the Capitol Building for nearly a quarter century. He was described by colleagues as an old-fashioned blue-collar newsman unimpressed by fame or stature of individuals about whom he wrote.

While Ron returned for one session after retirement to work for a Speaker of the House, he never lost his independence or commitment to the facts.

His final retirement from the Capitol resulted in the disbanding of one of the most highly visible Christmas Charities in Salem, the Pompous Twits. For several years before his retirement as a reporter, Ron would identify several fellow occupants of the Capitol as Pompous Twits, describing in detail the errors of their ways in legislative or administrative activities of Oregon government that displayed ineptitude or arrogance. One of his targets, Salem Senator LB Day working with Ron, used the label to identify folks for holiday fund raising for food & gifts at Christmas. The project was greatly enjoyed by the participants and had high visibility while helping many Salem area families.

Elwin J. “Bill” Ireland (1915-2010)

Bill Ireland, Prineville native, 1936 graduate of the University of Oregon, and WWII Veteran, served in the Oregon House of Representatives representing Clackamas and southern Multnomah Counties in the 1951-1953 session. He then served as Secretary to the Board of Control from 1953 to 1956 and later was chairman of the Capitol Planning Commission in the late 60’s and early 70’s when expansion of the mall northward was planned.

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Ornaments**

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