



The 2009 ANNUAL REPORT

FOR THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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The Oregon Historical Society's mission is to preserve and interpret Oregon's past in thoughtful, illuminating, and provocative ways.

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Message from the President & Executive Director



Dear Members and Friends,

The year 2009 saw major improvements and growth in different OHS programs, including the new museum store and History Makers Dinner, a new annual fundraising event. We cite and discuss them and others elsewhere in this annual report.

The year was also difficult for most nonprofit cultural organizations across the nation, and Oregon Historical Society was no exception. During the 2009 session of the Oregon Legislature, we saw our annual state support drop from \$1.4 million to \$312,000. The Board of Trustees acted immediately to reduce expenses, but we were unable to bridge the large gap through cuts alone.

The 2010 special session of the legislature saw no further assistance except for passage of clarifying language in a transportation bill that allows OHS to use its share of proceeds from the new Pacific Wonderland license plates for general operating support. We believe plate sales will provide substantial revenue in 2010 and 2011, buying us time to find the right solution to the public funding dilemma.

We thank the many individual, corporate, and foundation donors to the Society. One of the most gratifying aspects of coping with adversity has been the sharp increase in the number of donors to our annual fund campaign. We know that you understand how much OHS needs and deserves your assistance, and we are most grateful.

All year, the Board of Trustees and management have been exploring avenues for the "Big Fix," a solution to the public funding problem. We have worked with legislators and city and county officials to evaluate several different possibilities. Thanks to hard work and many discussions, we hope to make a major announcement at the annual meeting on April 17 about future public support for OHS and other local heritage organizations. We look forward to your involvement in making this effort succeed.


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Volunteers are recognized for their contributions at the 2009 Volunteer Appreciation party.

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Mr. & Mrs. Clyde R. Kalahan
Andrew and Marjorie Kerr
Mrs. and Mr. Colleen Lackey
Ron and Ann Lyman
Ken and Pat Lyttle
Colin Macdonald
Mrs. Veronica Macdonald

Mrs. Kyra M. MacIlveen
Timothy and Barbara Mahoney
Mr. & Mrs. Keith L. Martin
Mr. Brian McAdams
Scott and Barbara McArthur
Carolyn & Jack McMurchie
Ms. Jacqueline Meece
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Mr. Larry D. Payne
Judy Peterman
Harold and Jane Pollin
Ms. Maria Pope and Mr. Peter Beatty
Mr. & Mrs. Morgan Pope
Mr. & Mrs. Frank and Carol A. Powers
John and Deborah Purcell
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Ms. Sharlyn Rayment
Ms. Nicole H. Rhoads
Mr. & Mrs. Robert H. and Anne Richardson
Ms. Marilyn Richen
Mr. & Mrs. George D. and Claire T. Rives
Mr. & Mrs. Joseph and Barbara North Rodriguez
Mr. & Mrs. John H. and Lois A. Schick
Mrs. Mary D. Schlick
Mr. Wayne D. Schweinfest
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Mr. & Mrs. David L. and Christine Vernier
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Willamette Cultural Resources Associates, Ltd.
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Mr. & Mrs. Hoyt F. Wilson
Steve and Barbara Wilson
Mr. Chas T. Wood
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Mr. & Mrs. Herbert H. Zachow
Ms. Sandra Zupan

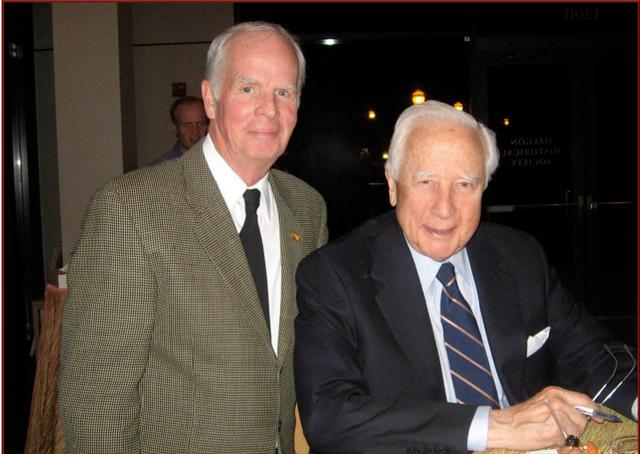


OHS's Education & Programs Manager reads to some of the museum's younger patrons.

2009 Highlights

CAN YOU SAY SESQUICENTENNIAL?

2009 marked the state of Oregon's 150th birthday, and the Oregon Historical Society hosted a range of events and lectures to mark the momentous occasion. On Statehood Day (February 14th) special programming and free admission brought thousands of guests to the Oregon Historical Society. The sesquicentennial series of the Mark O. Hatfield Distinguished Historians forum included sold-out lectures by respected authors David McCullough and Doris Kearns Goodwin, and a series of articles in the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* celebrated Oregon's rich political history.



2009 Board President John Herman and historian David McCullough chat at the Hatfield Historians Forum reception.

CELEBRATING OREGON HISTORY MAKERS

The Oregon Historical Society hosted the first annual History Makers Dinner in October 2009. Inaugural history makers Mrs. Gert Boyle, Mr. Michael Powell, and Dr. Brian Druker were honored for their significant accomplishments in the fields of business and medicine and their extraordinary impact in Oregon and beyond. The event was an unqualified success, recognizing the great legacy of these individuals and raising much needed funds for the Oregon Historical Society.

FAMILIES AND STUDENTS VISIT THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY IN RECORD NUMBERS.



This past year a record number of student groups visited the Oregon Historical Society. These field trips exposed students of all ages to the richness of history through artifacts, stories, and exhibits. The Research Library educated older students about primary sources and original research while docents and staff guided our younger visitors through the Oregon My Oregon exhibit and Will Vinton's Animation Art Collection. Some of our youngest guests even created their own claymation characters and films. Dedicated teams of docents and education outreach volunteers helped the Oregon Historical Society serve more teachers and students than ever before. Special family friendly programming and free admission for children also made family days increasingly popular in 2009. With everything from model railroads to costumed storytellers, the Oregon Historical Society offered something extra to families on the third Saturday of every month.

Visits from school tour groups increased by 20% in 2009, and new programs were launched to reach out to students and school teachers across the state.

2009 Highlights

A NEW MILLER PAVILION AND MUSEUM STORE

This summer, the Oregon Historical Society received a much needed face lift with the renovation of the James F. and Marion L. Miller Pavilion, now home to our new museum store. By moving the museum store out of its original Broadway location and into the Pavilion, the Society improved store access for visitors and freed up valuable rental space on the corner of Madison and Broadway. The visitor services desk moved closer to the museum's entrance, giving guests a friendly first point of contact. Vibrant banners and large artifacts were added to bring excitement to our entrance.



The new Mary Mark Museum Store in the renovated Miller Pavilion

RESEARCH AND COLLECTIONS

It was a challenging year for the Research Library. After losing two-thirds of the library staff in March, OHS streamlined operations and is now open to the public three afternoons a week (Thursday-Saturday). Library staff reorganized photo sales to accommodate the new e-commerce system, and online sales have increased steadily since the system's implementation in mid-year. Now, history enthusiasts, publishers, and designers can browse our archives online and purchase their favorite historic prints. Visitors to the museum are now greeted by our new Photo Kiosk, where prints can be ordered right in the Miller Pavilion, making our rich collection of historic images more accessible than ever.

Among the year's accomplishments was the completion of a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, which provided funds to completely re-house and reorganize over 100 cubic feet of valuable ephemera collections. These included the Business Collection, documenting thousands of Oregon enterprises; the Associations and Institutions Collection, focusing on organizations of all varieties; and the Manners and Customs Collection, a diverse group of materials including sports programs, dance cards, and programs for civic festivals. Three computerized microfilm readers, a generous gift from Julie and John Dixon, have greatly facilitated Library research.

During 2009, generous donors gave more than \$25,000 to the Friends of the Library Fund.

New acquisitions continued to arrive. Among those received in 2009 were: papers relating to Governor Tom McCall's 1978 primary campaign; additions to the papers of Judge Alfred T. Goodwin; historical materials on the Naito family; World War I letters of Frank Burns, uncle of John Burns; ephemera and newsletters from the Portland Timbers soccer team; photographs of the old Oregon State Capitol after the disastrous fire of 1935; a panoramic photograph of Portland, circa 1876; a collection of stereo cards depicting Independence, Oregon, and environs, circa 1900; and an extensive collection of letters written to a soldier in the Spanish-American war from his family and friends in Albany, Oregon.

To support Library programs, OHS has established the Friends of the Library Fund. We are immensely grateful to the many donors who have contributed.

New Exhibits

IN 2009

1 BRAIN + 2 EYES = 3D

Collaborating with state of the art Oregon companies and associations, OHS kicked off 2009 with a fascinating exhibit detailing the history and technological advances of 3D. This exhibit showed visitors vintage 3D photos, cameras, and projectors as well as some of the most advanced 3D cameras on the market today.

WILL VINTON'S ANIMATION ART COLLECTION

This exhibit, featuring Oregon native and claymation pioneer Will Vinton, showed visitors the artistry that goes behind making clay figures come to life. Vinton's personal art collection was displayed in this exhibit, which included drawings, clay sculptures, videos, and more, giving visitors insight into what it takes to make award winning characters like the California Raisins.

A HEARTFELT WELCOME

In order to share its history with the greater community, Vancouver Avenue First Baptist Church donated an extensive collection of photographs and ephemera to the Oregon Historical Society. The collection was showcased in the museum for six months, and included many of the church's paper records, photographs, and other artifacts such as a pew from the church and a stained glass window.

OREGON IS INDIAN COUNTRY

In a special collaboration, the nine federally recognized Oregon tribes came together to share their traditions and tell their history in their own words. Oregon Is Indian Country was made possible by the Oregon Tribes Project, a collaboration between the Society and the nine federally recognized tribes to document and display their traditions for the public. This exhibit continues to travel throughout the state.

ART OF CEREMONY

The Art of Ceremony gave visitors a rare glimpse into the traditional regalia used in private Native ceremonies. This exhibit, created by the Hallie Ford Museum, featured a variety of jewelry, headdresses, dance outfits, and musical instruments, all of which are rarely showcased to the public.

THE WEST THE RAILROADS MADE

In this exhibit, visitors were invited to take a trip back to the 19th century when the introduction of the railroad forever changed the American landscape. Railroads forged a link between the East and West like never before, connecting the cities and countryside through commerce. This exhibit included a variety of artifacts, such as original Northern Pacific pamphlets that enticed settlers through rich depictions of the West.

CENTURIES OF PROGRESS

The year concluded with a trip to the fair – the Worlds Fair to be exact. With over 125 objects, photographs and ephemera, this exhibit gave visitors a look at the many pieces that made up the 17 World's Fairs that took place on American soil.



Figures dressed in traditional ceremonial regalia from the Art of Ceremony

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

Year Ended December 31, 2009
With Comparative Totals for 2008

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & SUBSIDIARY

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|---|----------------------|-------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 1,353,342 | 1,738,369 |
| Contributions and grants receivable | 193,330 | 726,125 |
| Accounts receivable | 44,341 | 35,120 |
| Prepaid expenses | 153,226 | 163,678 |
| Inventories | 101,660 | 63,506 |
| Other assets | 113,353 | - |
| Investments, at fair market value | 2,327,325 | 2,325,865 |
| Beneficial interest in assets held by the Oregon Community Foundation | 6,593,645 | 5,371,577 |
| Beneficial interest in charitable trusts | 590,791 | 533,723 |
| Land, buildings and equipment | 10,328,570 | 10,474,163 |
| Collections | | |
| Total assets | \$ 21,799,583 | 21,432,126 |
| LIABILITIES | | |
| Accounts payable and accrued expenses | 200,339 | 512,445 |
| Deferred revenue | 28,151 | 74,800 |
| Liability to trust beneficiaries | 36,597 | 33,024 |
| Long-term debt | 2,686,371 | 2,739,050 |
| Deferred compensation | 68,164 | 93,636 |
| Total liabilities | 3,019,622 | 3,452,955 |
| NET ASSETS | | |
| Unrestricted: | | |
| Board-designated reserves | 2,577,249 | 2,551,415 |
| Cumulative endowment losses | (787,826) | (1,963,432) |
| Net investment in capital assets | 7,101,282 | 7,180,050 |
| Net investment in operating subsidiary | 645,860 | 588,805 |
| Total unrestricted | 9,536,565 | 8,356,838 |
| Temporarily restricted | 1,158,017 | 1,638,417 |
| Permanently restricted for endowment | 8,085,379 | 7,983,916 |
| Total net assets | 18,779,961 | 17,979,171 |
| Total liabilities and net assets | \$ 21,799,583 | 21,432,126 |

Consolidated Statement of Activities

Year Ended December 31, 2009
With Comparative Totals for 2008

OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY & SUBSIDIARY

| | 2009 | | | 2008 | |
|---|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Unrestricted | Temporarily restricted | Permanently restricted | Total | |
| PUBLIC SUPPORT | | | | | |
| Contributions and grants | \$1,331,851 | 700,877 | - | 2,032,728 | 2,820,644 |
| Special events | 104,963 | - | - | 104,963 | - |
| Memberships | 259,566 | - | - | 259,566 | 314,649 |
| State appropriation | 665,918 | - | - | 665,918 | 1,400,000 |
| Other local government funding | 18,374 | 197,576 | - | 215,950 | 195,988 |
| Total public support | 2,380,672 | 898,453 | - | 3,279,125 | 4,731,281 |
| REVENUES AND GAINS | | | | | |
| Admissions | 146,788 | - | - | 146,788 | 167,055 |
| Product sales | 306,735 | - | - | 306,735 | 305,708 |
| Rental income | 589,610 | - | - | 589,610 | 529,175 |
| Investment income | 3,626 | 14,861 | - | 18,487 | 96,769 |
| Other | 64,502 | - | - | 64,502 | 66,025 |
| Total revenues and gains | 1,111,261 | 14,861 | - | 1,126,122 | 1,164,732 |
| Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure | - | 9,183 | - | 9,183 | 71,400 |
| Net assets released from restrictions for operating | 1,376,556 | (1,376,556) | - | - | - |
| Total revenues, gains and other support | 4,868,489 | (454,059) | - | 4,414,430 | 5,967,413 |
| EXPENSES | | | | | |
| Program services | 3,183,743 | - | - | 3,183,743 | 4,082,545 |
| Supporting services | 1,364,167 | - | - | 1,364,167 | 1,518,164 |
| Jefferson-Madison Corporation | 613,551 | - | - | 613,551 | 575,313 |
| Total expenses | 5,161,461 | - | - | 5,161,461 | 6,176,022 |
| Net operating results | (292,972) | (454,059) | - | (747,031) | (208,609) |
| NON-OPERATING ACTIVITIES | | | | | |
| Endowment gifts | - | - | 14,678 | 14,678 | 40,922 |
| Contributions restricted for capital acquisition | - | 200,000 | - | 200,000 | - |
| In-kind contributions of capital assets | 23,543 | - | - | 23,543 | - |
| Net change in the beneficial interest in assets held by OCF | 1,175,606 | 46,462 | - | 1,222,068 | (2,131,566) |
| Net change in the fair value of split-interest agreements | - | 9,930 | 86,785 | 96,715 | (194,027) |
| Net gain on the sale of collection items | - | - | - | - | 167,200 |
| Appropriation of endowment assets for expenditure | - | (9,183) | - | (9,183) | (71,400) |
| Net assets released from restrictions for capital acquisition | 273,550 | (273,550) | - | - | - |
| Total non-operating activities | 1,472,699 | (26,341) | 101,463 | 1,547,821 | (2,188,871) |
| Increase (decrease) in net assets | 1,179,727 | (480,400) | 101,463 | 800,790 | (2,397,480) |
| Net assets at beginning of year | 8,356,838 | 1,638,417 | 7,983,916 | 17,979,171 | 20,376,651 |
| Net assets at end of year | \$ 9,536,565 | 1,158,017 | 8,085,379 | 18,779,961 | 17,979,171 |

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE
OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

ABOUT THE OREGON HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Since 1898, the Oregon Historical Society has served as the state's premier historical arm, gathering and preserving documents, manuscripts, publications, films, recordings, and artifacts. The Society preserves the significant cultural traditions of the diverse peoples of Oregon and has received high honors for its exhibits and public and educational programs. The society's award-winning exhibits include Oregon My Oregon, a permanent exhibit that won a MUSE Award from the American Association of Museums. The Society's artifacts collection includes ancient objects from the region's earliest settlements as well as items donated by contemporary Oregonians. Its vast and priceless collections include some 85,000 artifacts, 2.5 million photographs, 25,000 maps, 12,000 linear feet of manuscript materials, a library collection of 35,000 books, a film archive of 15,000 titles, and more than 2,000 oral histories.

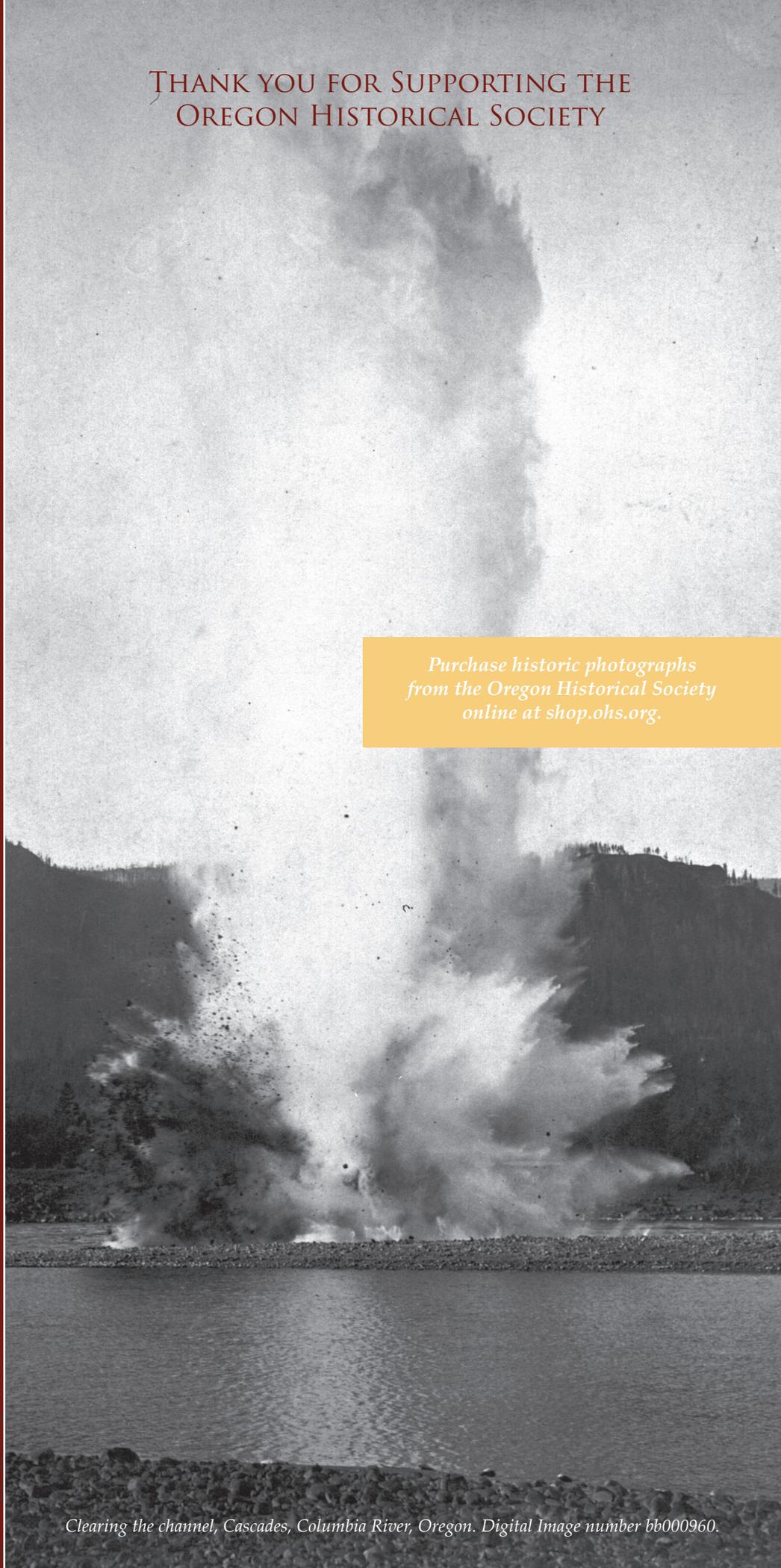
HOURS

10 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Tuesday - Saturday
Noon - 5 p.m.
Sunday

LOCATION

1200 SW Park Avenue
Portland, OR 97205
503-222-1741
WWW.OHS.ORG

*Purchase historic photographs
from the Oregon Historical Society
online at shop.ohs.org.*



Clearing the channel, Cascades, Columbia River, Oregon. Digital Image number bb000960.