



THE OREGON
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2015 Annual Report



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Letter to Members

Dear Members & Stakeholders,

In 2015, we marked a milestone at OHS with a record breaking attendance of 70,000—more than double the number of annual visitors just five years ago. History lovers of all ages, including many veterans and their families, came to see our blockbuster exhibition, *World War II: A World at War, A State Transformed*.

The Oregon Historical Society is honored to have the opportunity to share the stories of all our fellow Oregonians. If you participated in one of our many public programs across the state, spent time in our research library, or were absorbed in our World War II exhibition, you may recognize the following Oregonians and know of their courageous actions:

- **Bob Weiss:** In August 1944, Lieutenant Bob Weiss, a twenty-one year-old field artillery forward observer, radioed in fire missions to save the Normandy village of Mortain even as he and the other 655 members of the 30th Infantry Division were pinned down by Germans on all sides.
- **Ellen McFadden:** As a thirteen year old volunteer, Miss McFadden managed the Red Cross Portland Canteen providing a warm meal and coffee to soldiers. She would later serve families displaced by the Vanport flood, now present day North Portland.
- **Robert Diez:** As one of the Tuskegee Airmen, Lieutenant Diez flew 93 daring missions and is featured on the 1943 “Keep Us Flying; Buy War Bonds” poster displayed in 2015’s *A Community on the Move* exhibit.
- **Minoru Yasui:** Mr. Yasui, the first Japanese American member of the Oregon Bar, challenged the constitutionality of the military curfew imposed on Japanese American citizens during WWII. In 2015, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—the only Oregonian to receive this honor.

The Oregon Historical Society preserves the memories of many other Oregonians whose names may not be familiar to you. Whether it’s through a letter sent from a war hero to his sweetheart, or in a diary penned by someone’s great grandfather, or within a photograph taken by an up and coming artist, countless other remarkable stories are waiting to be uncovered in our collection.

We are grateful for your support which makes it possible for the Oregon Historical Society to be a priceless asset for the community with resources that are accessible to all. Your partnership and generosity inspire curiosity among tomorrow’s leaders, and help preserve the legacies of the people and events that have shaped Oregon. Thank you for helping to put the power of history into everyone’s hands!

Sincerely,



Kerry Tymchuk
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The 2015 Outstanding Volunteer Award was presented to Bob Setterberg for his numerous contributions to OHS over the past ten years. In addition to leading school tours, Bob has written tour scripts, repaired tour props, and given several off-site presentations on Oregon history at retirement homes and other community organizations. Congratulations, Bob!



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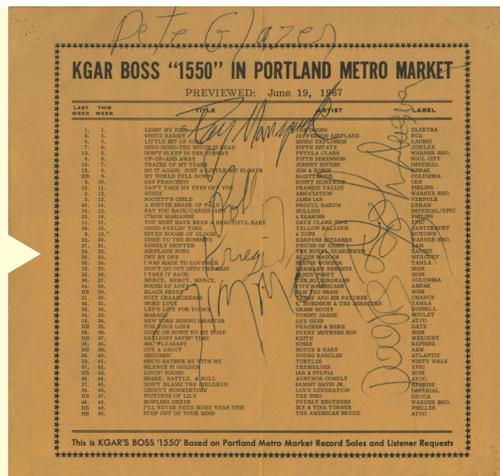
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This past year, the Research Library received a collection of rock & roll memorabilia from Peter Glazer, which includes a program signed by all members of The Doors (including Jim Morrison) from 1967. Rock on!



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A Year In Review



Attorney General Ellen Rosenblum, former Gov. Barbara Roberts, and Gov. Kate Brown celebrate Oregon's 116th birthday at OHS.

February 14

March 7

A series of library workshops on genealogy and preservation begin this month.



April 18

A record 92 students compete at Oregon History Day.



Oregon Duck Marcus Mariota's Heisman Trophy goes on display at OHS.

June 5

June 12

Twenty-four Oregon students travel to Washington, D.C. to compete at National History Day.

February 1

The third exhibition by partners the Oregon Black Pioneers, *A Community on the Move*, opens in the museum.

New digital platform, the Oregon History Wayfinder, launches.

April 15

Teddy Roosevelt returns to Portland for his annual roadshow, visiting schools and historical societies in Salem, Bend, Prineville, and more.

April 27

May 12

Hatfield Series concludes with a lecture by WWII historian Rick Atkinson.

World War II: A World at War, A State Transformed exhibition opens with a lecture by author David Eisenhower.

June 25





July 10

The Cabinet, OHS' ambassador board, raises over \$10,000 at its first signature event, "Oregon through the Decades."



October 30

Historian David McCullough visits our World War II exhibit, and "loves everything he sees."



December 4

Over 85 authors attend the 48th annual Holiday Cheer book sale.

November 17

Oregon Historical Quarterly host a symposium on regulating birth in Oregon.

Research Library opens UNEARTHED exhibit featuring Portland Garden Club glass lantern slides at Newspaper Gallery.

August 7

September 27

OHS hosts second annual "What's It Worth" event.

October 4

Ann Curry, Peggy Fowler, George Puentes, and Les Schwab Tire Centers become the latest recipients of the elite History Makers Medal. The event was a huge success, raising a record-breaking \$300,000.



November 20

OHS launches a new website and brand experience, giving a fresh look that relies heavily on our incredible library collection.

December 19

The Portland Timbers MLS Cup goes on display at OHS.

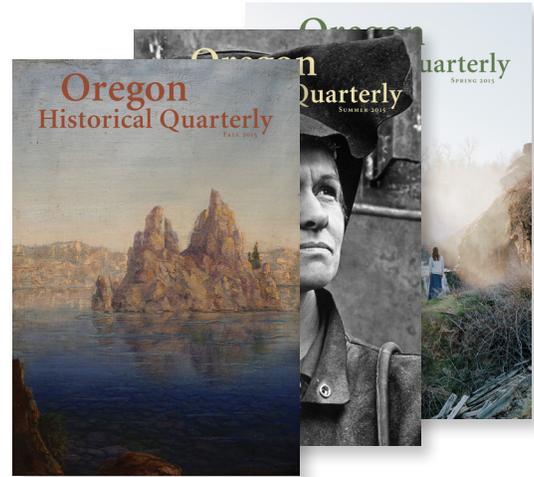


Notable Scholarship

Joel Palmer Award

Each year, the *Oregon Historical Quarterly* presents the Joel Palmer Award to the author of the best article published in the journal during the previous year.

The award was established by Omar C. “Slug” Palmer and William J. Lang in honor of their ancestor Joel Palmer, an Oregon pioneer. It is voted on by members of the *Quarterly’s* Editorial Advisory Board. In addition to the first-place prize, which carries with it \$300, two authors are presented honorable mention.



“Criminal Operations”: The First Fifty Years of Abortion Trials in Portland, Oregon

By Michael Helquist (Spring 2015)



Although Oregon adopted its first anti-abortion law in 1854, Portland’s first prosecution of a “criminal operation” (abortion) did not occur for nearly twenty years. Through case studies and data collected from *Oregonian* articles during that time period, Michael Helquist explores Portland’s early abortion trials that highlight “the nuanced and disparate reactions of physicians who found themselves on the front lines of abortion services, policies, and enforcement.” Helquist argues that “an understanding of the conflicts over reproductive policy [is] as important to women’s and the nation’s history as the struggle to achieve woman suffrage and other rights of citizenship.”

Above: Located at Third and Alder, the X-Radium Institute touted elixirs to treat sexually transmitted diseases and suggested women would receive assistance with ending pregnancies. This ad appeared in *The Oregonian* on October 15, 1905.

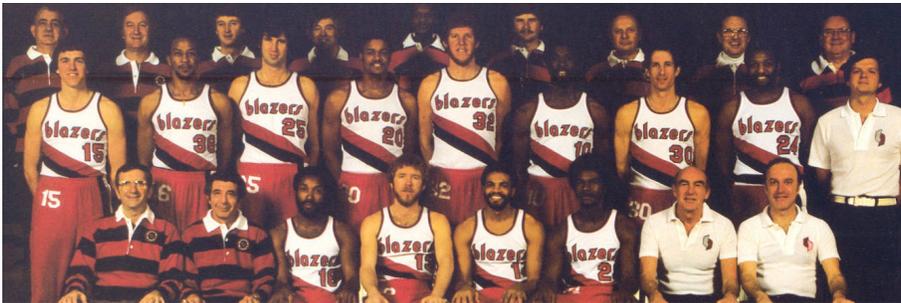
Honorable Mentions:

“The Job was Big, but the Man Doing it was Bigger”: The Forgotten Role of Thomas B. Waters in Klamath Termination, 1953–1958, by Matthew Villeneuve (Spring 2015)

Hitting the Trail: Live Displays of Native American, Filipino, and Japanese People at the Portland World’s Fair, by Emily Trafford (Summer 2015)

New to The Oregon Encyclopedia

The Oregon Historical Society's digital history projects, including the Oregon History Project and The Oregon Encyclopedia, host over 1,000,000 unique visitors each year! A few notable entries added to The OE in 2015 are listed to the right.



Recent Entries:

- The General (film)
- Fort Vancouver
- Kiesno (Chief Cassino)
- Oregon, the name
- Jack Ramsay
- The Martha Washington (building)

Left: The 1977–78 Trail Blazers; Jack Ramsay, who coached the 1977 championship team, sits in the first row, second from right.

Senior Sterling Fellowship

As the Senior Sterling Fellow for 2015, Dr. Kimberly Jensen, professor of History and Gender Studies at Western Oregon University, delved into the Oregon Historical Society's collections related to women's organizations in the early twentieth century.

"My hope is to analyze women's experiences in new ways and to illuminate some of the complicated issues of citizenship and gender... The staff and volunteers at the OHS Research Library are exceptionally dedicated and skilled in their support for researchers. They made my fellowship a pleasure and were there at all times with additional suggestions, supportive words, and just the right equipment I needed to be successful."

The Donald J. Sterling, Jr. Fellowships in Pacific Northwest History are presented to two scholars annually. Established through an endowment made possible by the family of Donald J. Sterling, Jr., this fellowship encourages original, scholarly, interpretive research in the Oregon Historical Society Library.



- 85,000 artifacts
- 6 million photographs
- 25,000 maps
- 12,000 feet of manuscript materials
- 35,000 books
- 15,000 film titles
- 2,000 oral histories
- ...and counting!

Consolidated Statement of Financial Position

	2015	2014
Assets:		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$ 2,047,528	\$ 2,824,821
Accounts receivable	31,296	21,155
Contributions and grants receivable	141,379	397,743
Inventories and prepayments	240,848	390,029
Other assets	87,074	93,146
Investments	7,664,956	7,660,474
Beneficial interest in assets held by the Oregon Community Foundation	7,295,418	7,753,806
Beneficial interest in charitable trusts	438,910	457,379
Restricted deposits and funded reserves	50,041	50,000
Land, buildings, and equipment	9,098,964	8,976,900
Total assets	\$ 27,096,414	\$ 28,625,453
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	426,901	442,375
Income taxes payable	–	1,277,213
Deferred revenue	130,368	11,236
Total liabilities	557,269	1,730,824
Net Assets:		
Unrestricted:		
Available for operations	233,765	397,880
Board-designated reserves	6,488,422	6,655,263
Cumulative endowment deficit	(587,381)	(153,181)
Net investment in capital assets	9,098,964	8,976,900
Total unrestricted	15,233,770	15,876,862
Temporarily restricted	1,547,411	1,242,434
Permanently restricted	9,757,964	9,775,333
Total net assets	26,539,145	26,894,629
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 27,096,414	\$ 28,625,453

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative amounts for 2014

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities

	2015			Total	2014
	Unrestricted	Temporarily restricted	Permanently restricted		
Public Support:					
Contributions and grants	\$ 1,752,852	1,425,234	1,100	3,179,186	2,362,757
Memberships	238,943	–	–	238,943	227,589
Multnomah County levy	1,992,239	–	–	1,992,239	1,570,006
Other governmental funding	862,762	70,000	–	932,762	863,307
Total public support	4,846,796	1,495,234	1,100	6,343,130	5,023,659
Revenue and Gains:					
Admissions	155,594	–	–	155,594	169,019
Product sales	228,347	–	–	228,347	215,704
Rental income	191,031	–	–	191,031	407,559
Investment return	(189,145)	(62,202)	–	(251,347)	316,395
Net change in the beneficial interest in assets held by the Oregon Community Foundation	(59,848)	(24,021)	–	(83,869)	279,874
Net change in the fair value of split- interest agreements	–	–	(18,469)	(18,469)	(11,655)
Net gain on the sale of collection items	–	–	–	–	14,498
Gain on the sale of capital assets	–	–	–	–	3,162,260
Other	214,161	–	–	214,161	231,250
Total revenues and gains	540,140	(86,223)	(18,469)	435,448	4,784,904
Net assets released from restrictions	1,104,034	(1,104,034)	–	–	–
Total revenues, gains, and other support	6,490,970	304,977	(17,369)	6,778,578	9,808,563
Expenses:					
Program services	5,454,226	–	–	5,454,226	4,750,752
Supporting services	1,679,836	–	–	1,679,836	1,368,737
Jefferson-Madison Corporation	–	–	–	–	1,560,206
Total expenses	7,134,062	–	–	7,134,062	7,679,695
Increase (decrease) in net assets	(643,092)	304,977	(17,369)	(355,484)	2,128,868
Net assets at beginning of year	15,876,862	1,242,434	9,775,333	26,894,629	24,765,761
Net assets at end of year	\$ 15,233,770	1,547,411	9,757,964	26,539,145	26,894,629

Year ended December 31, 2015, with comparative totals for 2014

Our Mission

*The Oregon Historical Society
preserves our state's history and
makes it accessible to everyone
in ways that advance knowledge
and inspire curiosity about all the
people, places, and events that
have shaped Oregon.*

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