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CREDITS

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Cover: Courtesy of The Albany Regional Museum from a publication by the Albany Commercial Club, 1909. "The Albany Commercial Club in presenting this booklet desires merely to set forth the truth regarding this section of the greatest of all Pacific Coast valleys." "An invitation and welcome is extended to all honest, industrious, intelligent citizens of other states who desire to participate in the building of the greatest industrial and agricultural empire the world has ever known."

Right: Photo Courtesy of the Albany Regional Museum, from the Robert Potts Collection, *Remembering When Vol I #71*. Albany has been known throughout the years as The Hub of the Willamette Valley. The car shown here was an entry in an early city parade sporting a sign "Welcome to Albany The Hub City." Albany was once referred to as the Hub City, because of its central location on the Willamette and Calapooia rivers, the railroads and Highways 99 and 20.



Welcome to beautiful historic Albany. I hope you will enjoy this publication, which walks you through the fantastic restored historic homes and commercial buildings in Albany's historic districts.

The people of Albany care about our city and are proud of our history. Albany was in the past considered the industrial hub of the Willamette Valley. Today we are the center of a green environment in the mid-Willamette Valley, which is revitalized and home to a wealth of history.

Albany is well known for its historic districts, the Downtown, Monteith and Hackleman. These districts are filled with unique homes, which have been for years transformed back to their original character. All exterior historic renovations have to comply with city design standards to assure the character is preserved in a historic building.

Albany's historic districts border the Willamette River. In the past century, the riverfront was filled with a variety of industrial buildings. When I was a child in our fair city, our downtown was the center of shopping with small and major retailers as the thriving businesses downtown. The seventies changed that trend and as time progressed the downtown character changed even more.

This century, the city formed an urban renewal district. We are proud of how this district has revitalized our downtown core area. The buildings are gorgeous in their architectural features and beautiful colors, which have transformed the streetscape any community would be proud to display. The urban renewal district has provided the opportunities for unique street level restaurants, upper and lower level retail businesses and offices, and upper floor housing. The unique shops and restaurants bring new energy to the core area. Industrial areas are being redeveloped with housing and retail along the riverfront with walking trails that connect to public parks, recreation and open spaces.

Albany has so much to provide visitors and there is always more to come. The downtown is constantly changing as it was in the "olde times".

Sharon Konopa
Mayor