

HACKLEMAN DISTRICT HISTORY



The Hackleman District consists of about 28 city blocks on the east side of Albany. The first settler was Abner Hackleman, a farmer from Des Moines County, Iowa, who emigrated to Oregon by crossing the plains with oxen in 1845. Hackleman staked his claim on the future site of Albany but only remained in the Willamette Valley for one year. He returned to Iowa by pack horse to fetch his family and died before returning. In 1847, Abner's son Abram relocated his father's claim and built a log house in an oak grove still known as Hackleman's Grove. He later built the house that stands at the corner of Fifth and Jackson. Abram Hackleman eventually laid out a residential district of about 100 acres.

In 1853, residents of the newly-settled district had enough influence to persuade the Territo-

rial Legislature to change the name of Albany to "Takenah," an Indian word describing the pool created by the Calapooia River as it meets the Willamette. Certain irreverent old-timers translated the new name as "hole in the ground." This seemed unsuitable for an up-and-coming community, so it was changed back to Albany in 1855. The name change reflected a political split that had developed between residents of the Hackleman and Monteith districts. Residents of the Hackleman district were largely working-class people who voted Democratic and sided with the South on the issue of slavery. The outbreak of the Civil War intensified the political rivalry between factions in city government and education. When the Republicans established a school, the Democrats built a school of their own, Dixie

School. In 1868, St. Paul's Methodist Church South was built on the site of Dixie School, at 238 Third Ave. SE. It is Albany's oldest extant church building. The only known contest to actually occur between the rivaling Monteith and Hackleman families took place during the Annual Game Hunt in 1881. Duncan Monteith and Denver Hackleman each headed up a team to see who could bring down the most birds. The Hackleman side won with 990 birds.

In 1858 the first plaster house in Albany was built in the Hackleman district by William Goltra. He first coated the inside with a mixture of lime, sand and water mixed with horsehair. Then dried plaster-of-paris, shipped from Oregon City was applied as a cover.

Another historic event to occur in the Hackle-

Top Photo: C 1914. At Fifth and Lyon the Albany trolley line intersected with the Oregon Electric Railway tracks. The trolley ran from the St. Charles Hotel at First and Washington east on First to Lyon, and North on Lyon to the Southern Pacific station. The trolley was later extended across the tracks to the Sunrise area. The Oregon Electric traversed Albany on Fifth Avenue to the West End where it was rejoined with the tracks that went through town on Water Avenue, passing the O.E. Freight station on Jackson Street. The OER passenger station shown here was later Veterans' Memorial Hall for many years, it's now a popular pizza restaurant. Courtesy of the Albany Regional Museum, from the Robert Potts Collection, Remembering When Vol IV #34.



Far Left Photo: The J.K. Weatherford home (49) on the S.E. corner of Fifth and Montgomery. It was later the home of daughter Annette Cowgill and family. This Italianate style home still stands today as restored. It features window crown moldings and Victorian picket fence. Photo c. 1905. Courtesy of the Albany Regional Museum, from the Robert Potts Collection, Remembering When Vol IV #48.

Inset: The J.K. Weatherford house as it appears today. As you look around notice the buildings remain the same as the landscape evolves and matures. Photo by: Oliver J. Anderson.

The Buhl house (8) as it looks today Photo by Oliver J. Anderson

man district was the first flight in Albany. It was attempted by a Japanese man who lived at Third and Montgomery, who built two big wings and then tried to fly after jumping off his house. He fell to the ground and broke both of his legs. The first newspaper in Albany, the Oregon Democrat, was established by November 1859. It was edited by G.H. Hackleman and published every Saturday morning. By the mid-1860's a number of "manufactories" had been established adjacent to the Hackleman District. The Albany Foundry began operating in 1866. The Santiam Canal, which runs through the Hackleman district along Thurston Street, provided water power for a number of mills along the river. The R. Veal and Son Chair Factory (located at 553 Main SE) began producing furniture in 1888. It was the oldest furniture factory west of the Mississippi River. The Oregon Electric Railway (OER) linked Albany with Portland and Eugene in 1912. At the time of its construction it was the most modern railroad in the west. The railroad was one of the main sources of employment in the area. The OER tracks ran down the middle of Fifth Avenue. The depot still stands at 133 Fifth Ave SE.

The Hackleman Historic District was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1982. The buildings in the Hackleman District represent a dozen different architectural styles. Most of the houses in the district were simple homes of people employed by the nearby factories, mills, and railroads. It is interesting however, that several of Albany's largest and most ornate houses, such as the imposing home of Oregon Governor and US Senator George Chamberlain, are located in the Hackleman Historic District.



Above photo: Courtesy of Randy and Jody Kruse. The Buhl house (8) originally had a basement but was moved after 1912 to the current location at Seventh and Montgomery to a foundation without a basement. It may have been built as early as the 1880s. Photo c. 1911 Shows Mr. & Mrs. H.C. Harkness, their daughter Ora, who the house was named after; Ora's aunt and the family dog, a great dane. Ora lived in the house until she was 92.

Below photo: The Ralston House (6) on the corner of Seventh and Baker is likely the most photographed building in Albany. The East-lake Stick Style home features sunbursts, stained glass and an angled balcony off the master bedroom. Photo by Oliver J. Anderson.

