The Heritage Museum has begun a 3-month effort to update our military exhibit in time for a grand re-opening event on November 10th!

A long standing and admired fixture of the museum, the military exhibit features artifacts representing military operations starting as early as the Civil War and continuing through the modern era. With leadership and support provided primarily by volunteers, we hope to achieve the following objectives:

- More clearly illustrate to patrons the impact of military operations on our local area
- Pay tribute to our community members’ military service
- Increase museum visibility in the community, and demonstrate the museum’s ability to enhance and update our collection

We urge veterans and residents alike to save the date for the Military Exhibit’s “Grand Re-Opening”, Nov 10th, 5-7 pm at the Heritage Museum!

At left are two views of the current exhibit. Expect to see a lot of changes and improvements at the Grand Re-opening!
"The Architecture of Internment" exhibit highlights the role of Oregonians in the decision to incarcerate 120,000 Japanese Americans and Japanese immigrants during World War II. The Heritage Museum worked with Portland producers to bring this exhibit to town. While Independence is a small city, we pride ourselves in having a world view and an interest in how the past informs the present. This exhibit was the first of its kind here and, based on feedback from residents, we'll certainly endeavor to bring more such provocative and instructional exhibits to Independence.

The work itself was so well done. The photos and "excerpted" text were great for the casual observer while the more detailed information satisfied historians, professional and amateur alike. We heard from a grandmother who was so affected by it that she brought her grandsons the following week. Another resident, the daughter of parents who were interned, was pleased and proud their story was being told in such an evocative manner.

**Mayor John McArdle** had this to say about the exhibit: “Thank you for bringing this thought-provoking and timely exhibit to the City of Independence. Independence is an Inclusive City; a city where we welcome all people and are committed to standing together. It is important to never forget and to learn from history the actions our state took in incarcerating 120,000 Japanese American citizens and people of Japanese heritage during WWII. I am a naturalized citizen myself and both value the privilege of my citizenship and that we need to treat all people in fair, humane and respectful ways. This exhibit reminds all of us to uphold the responsibilities of citizenship and living in a free country. We must never let fear of any kind undermine the rights and values that our country stands for.”

**City Manager David Clyne** said, “I for one am proud that we can help tell the full story of these dark days in our history through this remarkable display at the Independence Civic Center. World War II was full of true evil behavior. Examples abounded of the inhumane treatment experienced by so many on all sides. All of us in the United States need to accept responsibility for our poor treatment of American citizens of Japanese descent before we can truly judge the behavior of others.”

Thank you to [Graham Street Productions](http://www.grahamstreetproductions.com) for developing this very important exhibit and touching the heart of our city!
Podcasts: Modern Day Storytelling

Ancient storytellers were revered keepers of local knowledge history and traditions in their communities. Podcasts are an extension of oral storytelling. A podcast is a digital, audio recording of an individual, pair, or group of people made available on the internet for people to download and listen to whenever it is convenient. Podcasts cover many topics, including history and culture.

Many museums have begun producing podcasts for the enrichment and entertainment of their patrons. The nature of podcasts is that they are available to anyone with an internet connection and a device on which to store them, regardless of geographic location or time of day (unlike radio or TV).

The following links are some we think our readers may enjoy.

First Fridays Science Discussion / Natural History Museum of Los Angeles

National Gallery of Art / Audio

The British Museum Podcast
http://britishmuseum.libsyn.com/

Museum of Lost Objects
http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b0738jc2/episodes/downloads

Art Talk
https://www.kcrw.com/news-culture/shows/art-talk

International Spy Museum
https://www.spymuseum.org/multimedia/spycast/all/

Sidedoor – Smithsonian
http://insider.si.edu/2016/10/making-smithsonians-new-sidedoor-podcast-series-reality/

Long time Museum Commission member, Dennis Eberly, has contributed greatly to the Museum’s ability to tell stories in a similar manner. Over the years he’s amassed a large number of oral histories of many prominent residents. We’re working on a project now to put these oral histories online so everyone can enjoy them. Stay tuned for developments on this project!

Check out this newsletter online here so you can access all the links!
On Visiting Museums

It can be too easy to forget the proper way to visit museums. Considering the following rules will help the museum do its job of preserving history for future generations.

DON’Ts

Don't touch unless invited to do so. Oils and dirt on your hands can damage artifacts. Just think of similar, cumulative effects of everyone touching a piece of upholstered furniture, or a garment, or a book or photograph!

Don't try to see everything in one visit. Museum fatigue is a very real thing. Generally, most people can't absorb much after about 45-60 minutes. Pace yourself and have fun with your visit. Perhaps you could pick one or two sections of the museum to explore in depth each visit.

Don't feel that you have to read every label. Sometimes just looking at the object and reminiscing or imagining is enough. Talk about it with your fellow visitors, if you came with any!

DOs

Do come with a thirst for knowledge and a hunger for inspiration, but leave your lattes and snacks outside!

Do wear comfortable shoes. Although some museums provide benches where visitors can rest, typically, there is a lot of standing and walking involved.

Do respect the ‘personal space’ of the artifacts. Stay approximately three feet away and be aware of what is behind you.

Do chat with your friends using your ‘inside voice’. You’ll be surprised at the discoveries you’ll make together.

Do bring your family…children are welcome! Museum staff/volunteers can direct you to child-friendly objects and activities.

Do silence your cell phone, but you don’t need to turn it off. Tweets, Facebook status updates and text messages about your experiences at the museum are encouraged.

Do bring a camera, but check with museum staff before taking any photos. Museums have different policies when it comes to photography. Flash photography is generally not allowed.

Do come back. Museums love repeat visitors. They also love members so ask about joining to support the museum’s efforts in an extended and tangible way!
**Museum Apps**

A mobile application, or “app”, is a software program you can download and access directly using your smartphone or another mobile device like a tablet. Here are some apps that will allow you to visit amazing collections without leaving your living room sofa!

**The Louvre:**


**National Gallery, London:**

**Rijksmuseum, Amsterdam:**

**Museum of Modern Art:**
iOS:  https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/moma/id383990455?mt=8

The Smithsonian Museum has created some fun stuff for kids to do online as well (https://www.si.edu/kids). Here you can access online games and digital tools specifically designed for kids; although adults may enjoy them too!

Examples include access to webcams at the National Zoo, an interactive capability to dress in traditional African styles, the ability for kids to create their own clouds, and an online geography from space test!

**Electronic Inventory Capability Arrives!**

The Heritage Museum staff uses a program called PastPerfect to manage our collection. It’s a comprehensive system which allows us to capture detailed information and photographs of donated and loaned items; but with such a small staff, we need some help to ensure the database is up to date and accurately reflects the collection. We recently purchased an Inventory Manager Upgrade capability to help us accomplish this task. The add-on will allow us to electronically track the collection—to include items in storage and on display and will simplify future inventory efforts.
**Heritage Museum “Open House” A Grand Success!**

As part of the Eclipse-themed “Indy Goes Dark” festival, the Heritage Museum opened on Sunday, August 20th to welcome visitors from far and wide. The Open House was sponsored by the Heritage Museum Society (HMS).

In the weeks prior, HMS board members and volunteers worked tirelessly to prepare the Museum for the event. They stored some items and rearranged others. If you’ve visited since the eclipse and are wondering where our resident coyote and fox have gone to, you’ll have to look up to see them. They reside now on top of the cabinets under the Oregon Trail Sign on the back wall. They seem to be enjoying their new vantage points!

Early on Sunday, HMS members laid out refreshments, posted signs and balloons around town, and positioned HMS Historian and long-time Independence resident, Billie Kay Herrell under a shade umbrella at the front door to greet visitors. Billie Kay shared stories with passers-by about the pioneers, the Oregon Trail Centennial celebration, Indian tribal activity, ferry service on the Willamette, the effects on the town from the wind storm of 1962, and history of the building itself. Her entertaining stories primed visitors for what they would see inside – and they weren’t disappointed.

Over 100 visitors, some from as far away as Chile and Germany, dropped in and learned a little about our wonderful museum and the history of our area! We received lots of great comments about the exhibits. The whole experience left us encouraged to continue working on ways to share the Museum with our community and beyond.

There are so many people to thank starting with our City Community Services Director, Robin Puccetti, specifically for the great idea of getting our Open House flyers into Eclipse camper welcome packets, Vickie McCubbin for corralling a crew of neighbors to help with the heavy lifting, Amy Christensen for helping greet visitors, and Billie Kay Herrell for telling stories and enlisting the help of all her neighbors as well. A big thank you to everyone!

Kathy Pomeroy

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Limited Edition Postcards for Sale!

The Heritage Museum has thousands of photographs in its collection and the Heritage Museum Society has taken advantage of some of them by reproducing some as postcards. The cards have been printed in small batches showcasing several different photos from our collection, or of modern but historical things such as local buildings and our Society VP’s antique car! When this batch of postcards are gone brand new ones will be printed to take their place. Get them while they last! If you have photos you would like to see on postcards please let us know! They’re on sale now at the Museum, two for $1.00.

More postcard options coming in the future!
Upcoming Events

Event Name: Military Exhibit Grand Re-opening
Day: Friday, November 10th  Time: 5:00-7:00 pm
Place: Heritage Museum, 112 S. Third St., Independence

Become a Member to Support Your Museum

Membership fees and monetary donations go to the non-profit Heritage Museum Society. Benefits of membership include, but are not limited to, newsletters, special events notices, and 10% off purchases.

Return this section and make checks payable to:

Heritage Museum Society
P.O. Box 7
Independence, OR  97351

Name: __________________________________________________________________________________________

Mailing Address: ____________________________________________________________________________________

City: _______________________________

State: _____ Zip: ________

Best contact phone number: _________________________________

E-mail: _________________________________________________________________________________________

Allowing us to email notices reduces use of natural resources and mailing expenses. We respect your privacy and will not use your email for any other purpose.

Please circle the type of membership you would like:

Senior: $10.00     Individual: $25.00     Family: $50.00     Business: $50.00     Life Member: $500.00

Donations: As you know, we are a small non-profit organization. We couldn’t continue to operate without the generous contributions from our friends, members and volunteers. Please continue your support during the year with donations and purchases from our gift shop. Thanks to those of you who have contributed in the past. Remember, your donation is usually tax deductible and matching your donation to the Oregon Cultural Trust could yield a tax credit on your Oregon tax return. For more information visit www.culturaltrust.org/donate.