

# Press Release

February 4, 2011

## **THE OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA**



A partnership of Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society and The Oregon Council of Teachers of English

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### **Contribute Your Knowledge of Local History to the Oregon Encyclopedia**

A public community meeting will be held on Monday, March 7, 2011 from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Harney County Library located at 80 West "D" Street in Burns. The meeting is free and open to the public and refreshments will be served.

Participants will be asked to contribute their knowledge of local history and culture to The Oregon Encyclopedia (The OE), an on-line resource where information on the state's significant people, places, events, and institutions are available to anyone with access to the World Wide Web at <http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org>. The Oregon Encyclopedia is a partnership between Portland State University (PSU) and the Oregon Historical Society (OHS), and the Oregon Council of Teachers of English (OCTE).

The meeting will also include a presentation by Harney County Library staff about the local historical resources available at the Library that support the research and writing of local history. The meeting will provide an overview of the special collections available at the Claire McGill Luce Western History Room. This collection features books, local newspapers, oral histories, and over 1,000 photos of Burns, Hines, and the people and communities of Harney County.

William Lang, OE Executive Editor-in-chief will lead a discussion on how to write an Encyclopedia entry and will work with participants to identify local topics that should be included in the Oregon Encyclopedia.

The meeting is made possible by a grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon

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State Library. The grant will assist with posting entries on Oregon's underrepresented populations, including women, minorities, and those in rural areas to the Oregon Encyclopedia.

Currently The OE includes over 760 entries and almost 1,000 images, plus additional features such as documents, maps, and lesson plans. New entries are added every day. Writers who contribute to The OE include history enthusiasts and well-known writers, scholars, and subject specialists including: Carl Abbott, Kay Atwood, Peter Boag, Dick Bogle, Doug Decker, Brian Doyle, Steve Duin, Molly Gloss, Kim Jensen, George Katagiri, David Lewis, Barbara Mahoney, Floyd McKay, Jonathan Nicholas, Chet Orloff, Jarold Ramsey, Bill Robbins, David Sarasohn, Quintard Taylor, and Bill Willingham.

The OE grew out of the recognized need for a single, definitive source of information about Oregon's history and culture. The more than twenty scholars and specialists on the editorial board from across the state advise on editorial policy, help determine content, write entries and essays, and encourage submissions. "Identifying, documenting, and preserving information about Oregon's rich history and culture is what's behind this project," said William Lang, one of three Editors-in-Chief for The OE. "All Oregon towns have a rich and varied history, and it is essential that a resource as important as The Oregon Encyclopedia find ways to involve Oregonians in identifying the significant people, places, events, and institutions that have played such an important role in shaping and reshaping their communities."

The Libraries as Community Research Centers Project is supported in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services through the Library Services and Technology Act, administered by the Oregon State Library. This event is co-sponsored by the Harney County Library. The project is also supported by the Oregon Heritage Commission, the Oregon Cultural Trust, the Oregon University System, Willamette University, and private donors have provided additional support.

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If you'd like more information about The Oregon Encyclopedia, or to schedule an interview with the project Editors-in-Chief, please call Tania Hyatt-Evenson at 503.725.3990 or e-mail Tania at [pdx05508@pdx.edu](mailto:pdx05508@pdx.edu).

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