

The Lake Oswego Preservation Society is a non-profit corporation founded in 2011. Our mission is to support Lake Oswego's historic fabric through advocacy and education.



## Preservation Society

It was a glorious late summer day for the Society's first annual "Classic Houses and History Boat Tour on Oswego Lake," which was sponsored by the Lake Oswego Corporation. A sellout crowd of forty-six

passengers boarded six boats for a two-hour cruise around the lake. A guide on each boat shared information about the classic homes, their architect, and the original owners. The Society spent months researching homes and identifying architects. Over 40 properties were included on the tour. Responses from guests included, "the tour surpassed my expectations," "wonderful research was done on the properties," "first-class," and "truly couldn't have been better."



Left to right: Lake Oswego Preservation Society Board members Erin O'Rourke-Meadors, Marylou Colver, Emogene Waggoner, and Bonnie Kroft greet tour guests at Sundeleaf Plaza. Photo courtesy of Susanna Campbell Kuo

There is a waiting list for next year's tour and Society members will be able to purchase tickets before they go on sale to the general public.

Please visit the website to check the latest news:  
[www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org](http://www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org)

*"We see a future in our past."*

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Quote of the Quarter: "In the end, the character of a civilization is encased in its structures." Frank Gehry

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# New Additions to the Collection



Photos courtesy of the Lake Oswego Preservation Society



## Upper Item:

A rare, early Dickinson's home made jam jar. "Blackberry" is hand-written on the paper label.

## Lower Item:

Oregon Hills jam jar. This Oswego company was operated by one of Florence's sons, Allen King Dickinson, and her grandson Allen Jr.

## Oswego in a Jam\*

In 1897 Florence Smith Dickinson started making jams in her Oswego area farmhouse kitchen and this homespun enterprise grew into a world-renowned industry. The business began in the Dickinson home on Stephenson Road. Arthur Jones recalled, "When the Dickinson brothers were helping their mother with the jams and jellies, and I was a little boy and sold berries to them, they worked in a sort of small shed out beyond the kitchen. I think they had a big stove there and a big stove in the kitchen and they worked on the back porch. It was a very simple, primitive sort of plan by which they put these jams and jellies together. And it was just the very beginning of this industry." A 1932 obituary for

Florence Dickinson notes: "In addition to her 40 years' work in the Grange at Oswego, she was an expert on grape culture and founded and managed the Dickinson Products company, manufacturers of jellies, jams and grape juice." One newspaper account credits her with proving, against popular belief, that Concord grapes could be successfully grown in Oregon.

In a 1938 Works Progress Administration interview with her husband, Charles Towt Dickinson, he noted: "They began by taking orders for jams and jellies from people in Portland. They would take the orders early in the fruit season and in autumn deliver to the various families. The first year, he said, they put up about six-dozen containers. The second year there were five barrels of 25 doz. containers each.

The third year he ordered his glasses by the carload. From that time on they had a well-established business that is thriving today [1938]."

Another distinction came with the opening of Disneyland on July 18, 1955. The Dickinson Company was picked to operate a jam and jelly concession on Main Street. A 1960 television program on the Dickinsons gives credit for the quality and flavor of one of their jams to the "rubus vitifolius," or wild mountain blackberry. The J. M. Smucker Company acquired the business in 1979 and continues to sell preserves under the Dickinson label.

\* This article is excerpted from *Lake Oswego Vignettes* by Marylou Colver published by the History Press in 2012.

# Lake Oswego Rules!



Upper: Yardsticks were common promotional items for local businesses.

Photo courtesy of the Lake Oswego Preservation Society

Lower: 1966 photos of two of the “ruling” businesses: the Community Bank at 120 North State Street and Oswego Hardware.

Photos courtesy of the Lake Oswego Public Library

## Official Mascot Adopted

A shiny 1958 red and white Nash Metropolitan owned by our president, Marylou Colver, has been adopted as the official mascot of the Lake Oswego Preservation Society. The Metro is nicknamed “Smiley.” Society members marched along with Smiley in the City of Lake Oswego’s Star Spangled Fourth of July parade.



Photo courtesy of Susanna Campbell Kuo

# Preservation Advocacy Corner

The Society has been actively advocating for and supporting preservation of Lake Oswego's cultural resources. In July we submitted an application to the Historic Preservation League of Oregon (HPLO) nominating the Oswego Iron Furnace as one of the 35 milestones of preservation in Oregon. Winners will be announced on October 25th.

The Society also supports the reconstruction of the 1951 Pietro Belluschi designed Griffith House, which once sat on Pine Valley and Iron Mountain Boulevard, in its new role as the Belluschi Pavilion (pictured below) at Marylhurst University. The Society has made a donation to this important preservation endeavor. The pavilion is expected to be completed by the end of summer 2013.



## Lake Oswego Farmer's Market

**Jack Walsdorf and Céline Mattersdorf staff the Society's Lake Oswego farmer's market booth.**



Photo courtesy of the Lake Oswego Preservation Society

On June 16, 2012 the Lake Oswego Preservation Society debuted at the Lake Oswego farmer's market. We were also present at the market on July 28 and August 11.

This community outreach is a critical part of our mission of education and it also enabled us to feature the Society's unique fundraising items. Copies of *Lake Oswego Vignettes* signed by

the author and our reproduction 1953 Lake Oswego novelty aprons were popular items as well as our Greetings from Lake Oswego postcards.