

The Lake Oswego Preservation Society is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit corporation founded in 2011.

Our mission is to support Lake Oswego's historic fabric through advocacy and education.

Officers:

Marylou Colver, President

Celine Mattersdorff, Secretary

Jack Walsdorf, Treasurer

Directors:

Scott Howard

Bonnie Kroft

Pat Snider

Emogene Waggoner



Preservation Society

Please join us for the second annual "Classic Houses and History Boat Tour on Oswego Lake" to be held on Saturday, September 7th. Due to the popularity of the event, we have doubled the capacity this year. There will be two tours: one beginning at 8:30 AM and one at 12:00 PM. The two-hour, non-stop guided cruise around the perimeter of Oswego Lake will follow brief introductory remarks and light refreshments. There will be multiple boats ranging from six to ten passengers each with a guide/narrator on each boat. Fifty classic homes and historic sites will be highlighted. The original owners of the homes and the architects have been identified whenever possible.

Comments from last year's participants included: "The tour surpassed my expectations." "Thanks for the informative and fun tour." "Really well organized. Outstanding job."

The number of tickets available, 50 for each tour, is naturally limited by the capacity of the boats. Tickets are \$75 each; \$25 of the ticket price is considered a charitable donation. Discounted tickets will be available to Society members for a limited time beginning July 20th. This is one week prior to tickets going on sale to the general public at the Society's Lake Oswego Farmer's Market booth on July 27th. Please note that there has been a great deal of interest in the tour and it's anticipated that tickets will sell out quickly.

**CLASSIC HOUSES AND HISTORY BOAT TOUR ON OSWEGO LAKE**

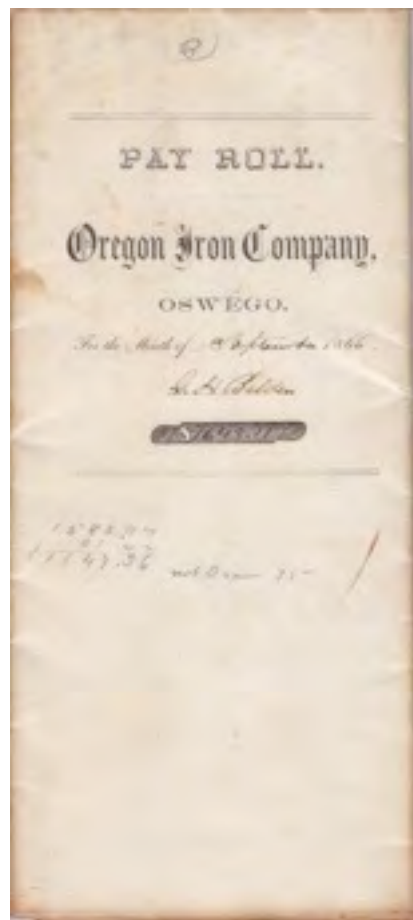
Sponsored by the:  
**Lake Oswego Corporation**

Presented by the:  
**Lake Oswego Preservation Society**

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

Quote of the Quarter: "Maybe if people started to listen, history would stop repeating itself."  
Lily Tomlin

# New Additions to the Collection



The Society's collection also contains payrolls from May and June 1867. The complete document archive can be viewed on the "Archive" page of our website.

The postcard was a gift from Gloria F. Austin. This image is also in the Lake Oswego Public Library's historic photographs collection available at: <http://www.ci.oswego.or.us/tools/library/photos/>

Left: Oregon Iron Company payroll dated September 1866.

Right: Front and back of a real photo postcard of the abandoned iron furnace postmarked 1912. It was mailed to "Marshfield, Oregon" which is the former name of Coos Bay.

## Blast from the Past\*

Miraculously the basalt masonry of Oswego's first iron blast furnace has survived for well over a century. It has narrowly escaped the natural ravages of weather, vegetation, and time plus the human threats of dynamite, gunite (a spray-on form of concrete), neglect, and the suggestion that it be used as a base for a statue of Samuel L. Simpson, Oregon's first Poet Laureate.

On January 26, 1932 an unsung hero sent the following letter to the editor of the *Oswego Review*:

*"I would like to ask why Oswego's Monument to its Pioneers is not taken seriously. Today as I passed by it I saw mostly brush and weeds growing around it. I am referring to the stove furnace down by the river. In a few years more it will be the center attraction of a jungle... Why could not a few more dollars be spent to fix up around it and put a sign on the highways to point out to the many hundreds of tourists who are out to see the many attractions*

*of the various cities they visit? Perhaps if a few tourists would stop to see it they would remember to buy a few necessities and leave a few tourist dollars in Oswego. Why could not a history of its origin be written and placed in a frame so all could know what it was? Pretty soon the last old timer will be placed under the sod and the only history that could be written will be from hear say. Would it not be nice if it could be placed on the map as it once was? Why could not one of the various organizations take this matter up and see it through, or should it be forgotten and just be called a pile of rocks? I wonder why? What would you do, Mr. Editor? Observer"*

Over the decades there has been a succession of prominent champions intent on saving the 1866 furnace. These include George Rogers in the 1940s, Mary Goodall in the 1950s, and the Lake Oswego Junior Historical Society members in the 1960s who placed "Save the Stack" donation boxes at local merchants. In recent times Susanna Campbell Kuo dedicated years

to spearheading efforts to restore the edifice. Thankfully these collective efforts have come to fruition. Not only has the furnace been saved, but also a careful preservation and stabilization project was completed in 2010 paid for in part by a "Save America's Treasures" grant and the local hotel/motel tax. Interpretive panels insure that its significance will be understood by future generations. The influx of "tourist dollars" envisioned by the anonymous writer in 1932 can now be realized. The only surviving blast furnace west of the Rockies is Lake Oswego's major heritage tourism attraction. One would have to travel over 1,000 miles to see another.

\* This article is excerpted from *Lake Oswego Vignettes* by Marylou Colver published in 2012 by The History Press of Charleston, South Carolina.

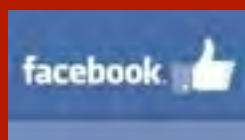
## Stay in Touch!

Website:  
[www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org](http://www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org)

Email:  
[4lohhistory@lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org](mailto:4lohhistory@lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org)

Telephone:  
 503.481.2479

If you use social media, please “like” the Lake Oswego Preservation Society’s facebook page



<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Lake-Oswego-Preservation-Society/231444816876091>

and follow us on Twitter



<https://twitter.com/LOPSociety>

# Advocacy Corner

Major alterations are currently proposed for the 1932 landmark J. H. Duncan House, commonly known as the Lake Grove Angler’s Club, at 4375 South Shore Road. It is one of only seven homes on Oswego Lake designated as a City landmark. Out of the hundreds of homes on the lake, this makes it an incredibly scarce resource. These homes



are landmarks because, as the City’s website states, “These historic properties are considered the best examples of Lake Oswego’s past.”

The Duncan House is also only one of only two landmark homes located in the Lakeview Villas plat. Lakeview Villas is important because it was the first post iron-era plat and the first plat on the lake. As such, it heralded the town’s transition from an industrial center to a residential-recreational paradise of architect-designed homes in park-like settings.

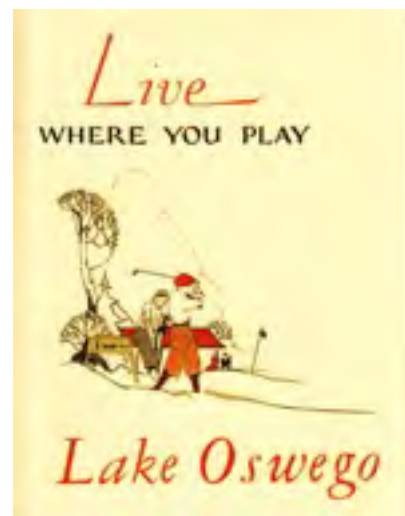
The Duncan House, designed by Edward J. Green for the family of prominent businessman J. H. Duncan, typifies this pivotal transition in Lake Oswego’s history which makes it a valuable community resource. It is also the only Edward J. Green designed house that has been identified in Lake Oswego.

Advocacy is definitely the more difficult part of the Society’s mission, but if we don’t advocate at public hearings on behalf of these landmark properties, we’re not doing our job as a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Lake Oswego’s historic fabric. Please visit the “Endangered” page of our website for a list of historic properties that are at-risk.

## Live Where You Play Notecards

The Society’s newest item, *Live Where You Play* notecards will be available at our Lake Oswego Farmer’s Market booth on July 27th, August 10th, and August 24th. They will also be available on the “Shop” page of our website. There are six different notecard designs based on illustrations from a 1926 Ladd Estate Company brochure for Oswego real estate. A package of six notecards and envelopes is priced at \$12. All products directly relate to and further the Society’s mission of supporting Lake Oswego’s historic fabric through advocacy and education.

The entire array of the Society’s products will be available including retro Lake Oswego map aprons and pillow covers, Paul A. Lanquist Lake Oswego posters, Greetings from Lake Oswego postcards, copies of the book *Lake Oswego Vignettes*, and tickets, while they last, for the “Classic Houses and History Boat Tour on Oswego Lake.”



## *Historic Preservation Essay Contest*

During May, National Historic Preservation Month, the Lake Oswego Preservation Society launched their first annual historic preservation high school essay contest. Mayor Kent Studebaker, author Brian Doyle, The Bank of Oswego Vice President of Marketing and Administration Bridget Smith, library director Bill Baars, and retired English teacher Ricky Korach graciously accepted the challenge of selecting the winners from the six essays submitted. The Bank of Oswego generously funded the scholarship awards.

The \$500 first place prize was awarded to Ilia Savin for his essay entitled “Inside the Walls: Preserving the Charlie S. Brown Boathouse.” Ilia thanked the Society for “instilling in me a newly-found respect for our community’s history.” Sina Holwerda was the recipient of the \$250 second place prize for “My Gingerbread House.” Sina wrote about living in her family’s 1927 Wade Pipes designed house, “When I arrive home from school, I am greeted with the handshake of a handle to a door that is 86 years old. It’s hard not to wonder how many other people have felt the same grip from this doorknob, twisted it, and walked in to step on the creaky top-nailed oak floor and had the honor of calling it home.” Rebekah Jamison won the \$125 third prize for her essay on the Lakewood Center for the Arts entitled “A Legacy of Education.” Rebekah wrote, “It is important that a building this meaningful to our society is preserved for the use of future generations.”

Gift certificates were awarded to the three runners up: Madison Cho-Richmond for her essay on the oldest house in Lake Oswego, the Carman House; Ryan Stadnik for his essay on the Lakewood Center for the Arts; and Leah Shearer for her essay on Luscher Farm. The full text of all of the essays is available on the Society’s “Essay Contest” page at [www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org](http://www.lakeoswegopreservationsociety.org).



Essay contest participants left to right: Madison Cho-Richmond, Leah Shearer, Ryan Stadnik, Rebekah Jamison, and Sina Holwerda. Ilia Savin was unable to attend.

## *Clackamas County Tourism Council Grant*

The Society was awarded a \$5,000 Clackamas County Tourism Development Council Community Partnership Program grant to create an architectural treasure hunt of historic commercial buildings in downtown Lake Oswego and Lake Grove. The downtown area retains a number of significant, historic commercial buildings, but very little attention has been paid to these treasures. The Lake Grove town center also has several noteworthy commercial buildings despite the fairly recent demolition of the Richard Sundeleaf-designed Lake Grove Shopping Center. As a part of this grant, the Society will research and identify fifteen key historic, commercial buildings.

A professional architectural photographer will be commissioned to create a series of images highlighting one visually interesting architectural element from each of these buildings. Using these photographs, along with accompanying historic information researched and written by the Society, a treasure hunt brochure will be created. In matching the architectural detail in the brochure with each building, residents and visitors will explore the city and discover both local history and local businesses. This unique activity will draw people into the commercial centers and will encourage them to extend their visit. Participants will be encouraged to submit their completed treasure hunt entries to the Society for a chance to win a prize. A handout will be created for the occupants of the 15 selected historic buildings with information on the history of the building including, when possible, the architect and the original owner. Walking tours of the downtown buildings will also be offered as a part of this grant. This grant project will provide a different and accessible way of introducing people to what our town centers, and the Lake Oswego community, have to offer.