

WASHINGTON COUNTY



HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NOV 16 1990
Governor Ativet

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November 14

Dear Vic,

Following your gift to WCHS of the bronze medallion, I asked our Curator, Don Stebbins, to create a small display in the museum foyer, so we could share it with our visitors. He did far better: he designed an entire exhibit around your medallion! Visitors have really enjoyed "What

So Proudly We Hailed", and it
will be taken down soon to make
way for a new semi-permanent
exhibit in Washington County.
(You're a part of that one, too!)

I'd be so pleased if you could
share our placing of your honor
to WCHS on public view -

Come visit! Sincerely yours
Joan Smith

Flags, banners displayed in 'dream' show

ROCK CREEK — Believe it or not, the latest exhibit at the Washington County Historical Society was designed in the curator's sleep.

"What So Proudly We Hail" traces the importance of flags and banners in the county's history. Curator Dan Stebbins said the idea came to him in a dream.

Stebbins had been charged with designing a display for an Oregon Territorial Seal medallion presented to the society by former Gov. Vic Atiyeh in 1989.

"All of this stuff came into my head in the dream," Stebbins said, "so I came in the next day and started taking measurements and pulling things out of the collection."

"Farthest West Camp No. 20" is emblazoned in gold letters across a blue flag from 1917 honoring Washington County's veterans of the Spanish-American War of 1898.

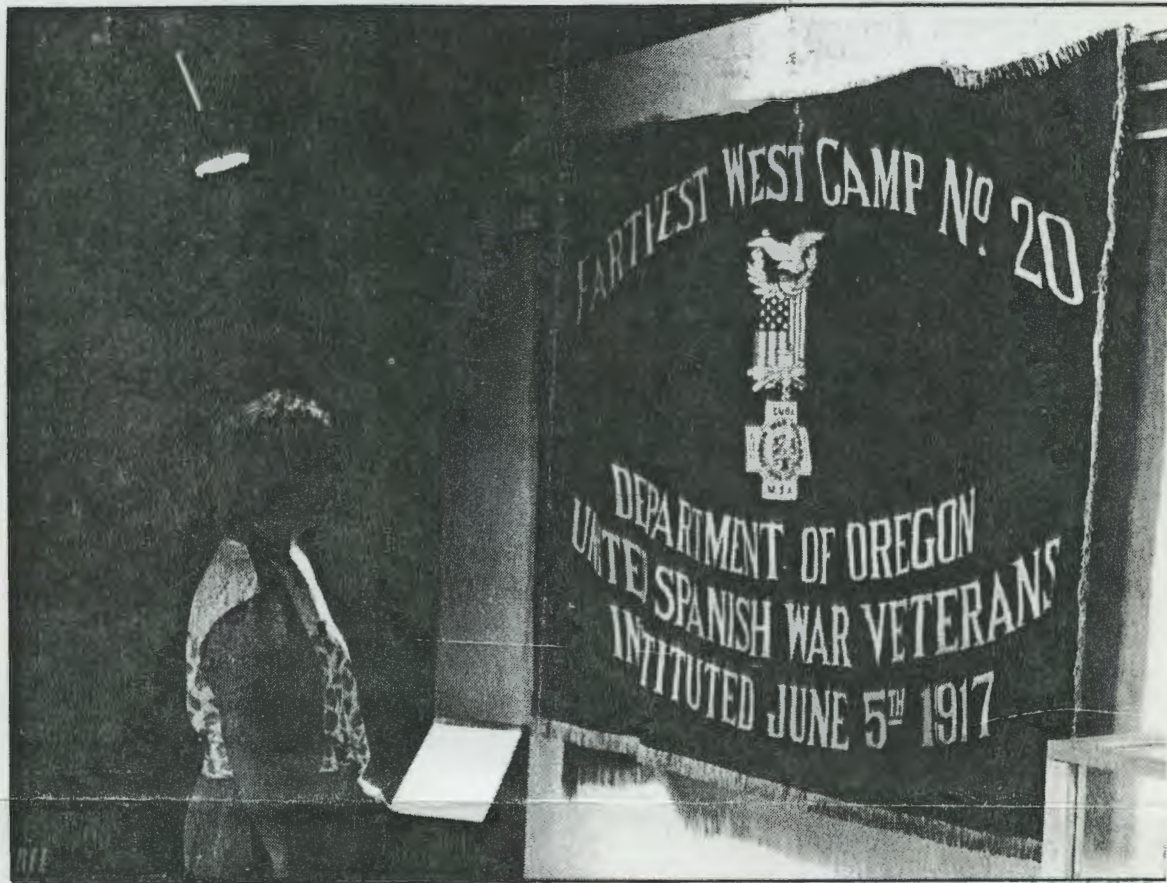
The flag is accompanied by a photo from the society's archives depicting an 1899 banquet honoring veterans at the Washington County courthouse.

"It's amazing how involved Washington County was with the Spanish-American War," Stebbins said.

His research shows that 36 Washington County residents served in the Philippines during the war. Thirty-three veterans returned, two were killed and one chose to remain in Manila.

A red, white and blue strip of bunting from Washington County's Women's Relief Corps is included in the exhibit. The corps was the women's auxiliary for the Grand Army of the Republic, veterans of the American Civil War:

Bunting like the one in the



staff photo by Matt Bur

FLAG DAYS — Museum intern Diane Knutsen, a teacher at Five Oaks Intermediate School, a 1917 flag honoring Washington County veterans of the Spanish-American War. The flag remains on display at the Washington County Historical Society through the fall.

society's exhibit were typically displayed at corps meetings called "encampments," Stebbins said. A photo from a 1902 encampment in Cornelius is featured.

World War II is commemorated by two service flags and a 1943 banner rallying residents to buy Treasury bonds.

Washington County's quota for bond sales was more than \$2.5 million. Residents bought almost \$2.9 million worth.

Service flags in county homes declared that a son or daughter was in military service. A service flag from the Jacktown Women's Club features 25 stars.

"I think it's important to tie local history into national and regional trends," Stebbins said. "That's what

history is all about."

Other flags and banners in the exhibit include a 1976 U.S. Bicentennial flag, a Washington County Sheriff's Reserve Battalion flag and a 1959 flag commemorating Oregon's 100th anniversary celebration.

"What So Proudly We Hail" continues at the Washington County Historical Society, 17677 Springville Road, through this

"All of these flags are from the collection. They've received quite a bit of care and are all of high quality," Stebbins said.