

Benton County  
Genealogical Society  
**NEWSLETTER**

Located in Philomath, Oregon  
founded in 1971 in Corvallis, Oregon

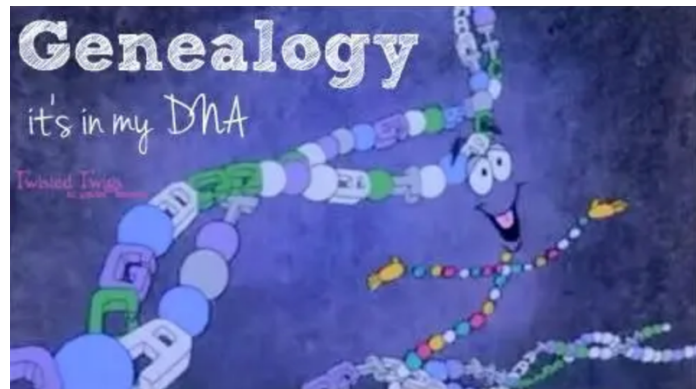
Volume 41 No.5: January 2023

<https://www.bcg-s-oregon.org>

From President George

I hope your new year is a happy, healthy and prosperous one. I hope to see you at our 14 January meeting.

**JANUARY 2023**  
MAY OUR 12 MONTHS BE  
JUST PERFECT!



<https://twistedtwigsgenealogy.com/blog/page/2/>

Free Gen Talks this month from the  
**Genealogical Forum of Oregon**

<https://gfo.org/learn/gen-talks.html> (Register here)

Gen(ealogy) Talks are less formal, genealogy-related presentations that now take place online live several months per year, on the third Saturday at 2:30 p.m.

**Upcoming Gen Talks:**

**Sign of the Times - The Organizational Power of Timelines**

Presenter: Diane L. Richard

January 21, 2023 @ 2:30 p.m.

**America's Westward Expansion : 25 Events in 50 Minutes**

Presenter: Katherine R. Willson

February 18, 2023 @ 2:30 p.m.



## A FREE program presented by Robert Taylor

Robert Taylor will be giving us a presentation on a wonderful new FREE website "The Family History Guide". He will explain what it is and how to use it.

The Family History Guide ([thefhguide.com](http://thefhguide.com))

The Family History Guide is a free learning, research and activities guide to help make our research easier, more efficient and more enjoyable.

It is a free website that represents a best-in-class learning environment for family history.

Robert Taylor is one of the developers of this guide so the program should be very worthwhile.

**Saturday, January 14<sup>th</sup> 11AM-Noon**

**Benton County Historical Museum**

**1101 Main St., Philomath, OR**

**Moreland Gallery, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

Sponsored by  
Benton County Genealogical Society  
[WWW.bcgs-Oregon.org](http://WWW.bcgs-Oregon.org)

# Al's News Agency



For those who have driven down North 2<sup>nd</sup> Street along the river heading to Albany, you probably have noticed a brown house overlooking the river. For years I thought that it seemed to be out of place. When I joined BCGS I got to know another member, David Utt, an interesting person with lots of information about Corvallis. One day he told me that his father and mother had owned a lunch counter that was on 2<sup>nd</sup> Street along the river. Suddenly, I knew why that “house” was there along the highway. This was his parents’ lunch counter!

Sadly, David died August 9, 2021. I miss talking with him. He always came to our meetings with his son Lyle so I got to know him, too. Thanks to Lyle for giving me permission to use several photos for this story, and his uncle who has so many memories that he shared with me.

## **HOW AL'S NEWS AGENCY BEGAN**

Archie Leroy “Al” Utt came to Corvallis in 1927 planning to continue on to Los Angeles. He took a road construction job in Corvallis and never made it to Los Angeles. In June 29, 1931, he married Alma Goff, whom he met at a boardinghouse where he ate his meals. He and Alma bought a home near Avery Park in 1940 and they lived there for the rest of their lives.

Here is what Lyle’s uncle remembers:

“When my dad bought the business, Al’s News Agency was located at 350 Monroe St., on the south side of the street next to the alley between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>. The space was leased from the Elks Club, which owned the building that occupied that corner, the southeast corner of 4<sup>th</sup> and Monroe. The Club’s front door was on 4<sup>th</sup> Street.”

Continued on the next page

## Finding a New Place for Al's News Agency

“When the store’s lease expired at the end of 1946, the Elks Club declined to renew it. My parents leased a lot on North Second Street from the owners of the service station next door and built a new building there, got new licenses and opened a new business with the same name. When I say “built” I don’t just mean paid for – my father and some people he hired used the tools and constructed it. Some of the windows were Army surplus, because the Army was tearing down some of the barracks at Camp Adair.

My parents decided to retire when my mother turned 65, so that they could both collect Social Security. They didn’t renew the licenses to operate the store for 1972, so they closed it at the end of 1971 and put the building up for sale.”





**Al's News**

**Menu**

Ham and eggs, toast, butter.....	85¢
Hamburger steak, french fries or potato salad, vegetable, bread, butter..	85¢
Sauerkraut and wieners, bread, butter.	50¢
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<b>Sandwiches</b>	
French fried cheese (tried it?).....	35¢
Hamburger.....	35¢
Doubleheader (2 meat 1 bun).....	50¢
Cheeseburger.....	45¢
Sausageburger.....	35¢
Chiliburger.....	65¢
Cheese.....	35¢
Toasted cheese.....	40¢
Hot dog.....	35¢
Fried ham.....	45¢
Fried egg.....	35¢
Develed egg.....	35¢
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Pup in a blanket .....	25¢
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Chili.....	30¢
Soup.....	20¢
Potato salad.....	10¢
French fries.....	15¢
Pie (¼) we make 'em .....	20¢
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Tea or coffe.....	5¢
Milk or hot chcolate.....	10¢
Milkshake.....	25¢
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No lunch srevic after 7:30 P.M.	

## Corvallis Softball League Opening Is Next Monday Evening

In charge of Bus Nonkin, senior city softball league umpire, the opening night, Monday at 7:30, promises to be a big event for city fans, Camp Adair workers, and soldiers quartered here. In fact there is a prize being given for the best looking soldier in uniform on the soldier team, which will parade along with the other six teams. There will be band music, and other features.

Merchants of Corvallis, as usual, have stepped out with a long list of prizes for 'firsts.' In fact so many that nearly every player is scheduled to get something of merchandising value.

Merchants participating follow: J. M. Nolan and Son, J. C. Penney, Bauer and Bauer, Al's News Agency, Noble's Toggery, Rich-

Gazette-Times., June 6, 2942 Page 1

**Thanks to Lyle and his uncle** for providing such interesting information about the "house" on North Second Street. Having known David and his interest in his parents' Al's News Agency, I feel he would be happy for our members to know about it, too.

I'm also glad that Lyle's family still had a menu! I'm always interested in what people ate and how much it cost. Coffee-5 cents! The money for a cup of coffee, I'm sure, was precious for a lot of people.

**In the February newsletter there will be some more interesting information about the store and what downtown Corvallis was like in the 1930's.**



Benton CountyGenealogical Society  
P.O. Box 1646, Philomath, OR 97370  
**President:** George Davidson, 928-205-2121

[bcgsor@gmail.com](mailto:bcgsor@gmail.com)

**Vice President:** Kathryn Moss

[mosskathryn@gmail.com](mailto:mosskathryn@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** OPEN

**Treasurer:** Lois Courtney

[loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com)

Appointed Positions

Membership: OPEN

Librarian: Liza Wilson

Programs: OPEN

Historian: OPEN

Photographer: OPEN

Audit: Connie Patterson

Refreshments: Pegge Gee

Host: Kathryn Moss

Research: Lois Courtney

Book Sales: Maridee Symons

Website: George Davidson

Facebook: OPEN

Publicity: Lois Courtney

Library Volunteers: Lois Courtney

Writers Group: Sue Van Laere

## Open Library Changes

**Our Library will be open to members and the public after our monthly meetings. (the 2<sup>nd</sup> Saturday in the month)**

**If you would like to use the Library during the month, contact Lois**

**([loiscourtney@cmug.com](mailto:loiscourtney@cmug.com) or cell 541-760-0405.**

**Reminder: our website has the complete inventory of our wonderful Library.**

**(<http://www.bcgs-oregon.org/library/library-shelf-list> )**

*I suffer from ADGD.*

*Attention Deficit  
Genealogy Disorder*

*It's where you start researching one ancestor, but get distracted by another ancestor's record, which causes you to bounce around to different ancestors only to end up doing a lot of work with very little to show for it!!*

Lori-Kim Phinney and Historyofmylittletoe.com

## Ramblings from the Editor...

What are the annual traditions you have observed in the past month?  
What story goes with the china you used for the special holiday meal?  
Was the salad you served one of long standing tradition?  
Would your overnight guests have been disappointed if there had been a different breakfast than the one you prepared?  
For how many years have the symbols you placed around your home been a part of your holiday celebration?  
The answers to these questions may be the bed-rock of a story to write for future generations.

**Ann Bateman** [ This was first printed in the January 2020 newsletter when Ann was the editor. I'm hoping that some of you might share your answers in the next newsletter. It is still a great idea, Ann.]

You can end your answers to me at [vanlaere@proaxis.com](mailto:vanlaere@proaxis.com) Thanks!