

Atlas of Oregon released for 125th anniversary celebration

By Leon Tovey
Oregon Daily Emerald

Retired geography professor Bill Loy spent a full three years working on the first Atlas of Oregon, which was published in 1976 to commemorate the University's centennial, but he now says that some parts of the atlas never met his satisfaction. With the recently published Atlas of Oregon II, Loy and others have addressed the shortcomings of the first version in time for the University's 125th anniversary.

"We were able to do a more complete job," Loy said of the 320-page atlas. "The first one was a lot simpler."

As part of the University's 125th anniversary celebration, 1,200 copies of the atlas will be given to public

schools across the state. On Monday, President Dave Frohnmayer presented a copy of the atlas to fourth-grade students from Meadow View elementary school. In a statement, Frohnmayer called the atlas "the most impressive volume of information ever assembled about the state — as fact-filled as it is beautiful."

Among the new facts included in the updated atlas are a more detailed vegetation map, a two-page spread focusing on the Oregon Trail, and an in-depth map of the state's historical sites, Loy said.

In addition to improving the finished product, Loy, Stuart Allan — who also collaborated with Loy on the first atlas — and the University's Infographics Lab were able to shave more

than a year off their time on this version, thanks to computer cartography equipment not available 25 years ago.

"It was a team effort all the way through," said Jim Meacham, director of the Infographics Lab. Meacham added that he felt "really lucky to get an opportunity to work on a project of this magnitude."

Geno Carpentier, a graduate student in geography who worked on the project, said working with professionals like Loy and Allan was a real learning experience — one that sometimes left him wondering how much he had left to learn.

"I was licking my wounds a few times," Carpentier said with a rueful laugh. "But overall it was a good experience."

And by all accounts, it was also a successful one. Despite working under tremendous pressure and a tight deadline, the group was able to complete the atlas on time and beyond everyone's expectations, Meacham said. However, at least one map that Loy very much wanted to include never came together. The emeritus professor had originally envisioned a map of the state's fiber optic and telecommunications lines.

"We tried and tried, but never could get them," he said. "No one could provide the information in a format we could use."

Loy ran into similar problems with the first edition 25 years ago. When Loy asked Bell Communications to provide information on tele-

phone connections around the state, the communications giant refused on the grounds that it would violate its customers' privacy.

Now that the project is finished, the emeritus professor says he is planning to "retire from retirement." He is currently working on a CD-ROM version of the atlas. He expects the project to take about a year, after which he said he would "step back and watch the next generation (of geologists) do good things."

In the meantime, Atlas of Oregon II is available from the UOPress in a \$100 deluxe hard-bound edition and a \$60 soft-bound edition.

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Family weekend

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Dad's Weekend were melded into Parent's Weekend, held in the fall and spring. Then three years ago the name was changed to Family Weekend, Hudzikiewicz said.

Another event planned for this year that played a role in Homecoming celebrations of the past is the Homecoming Ball, "An Emerald Evening," sponsored by the ASUO, University Housing, Office of Student Life and the Student Alumni Associ-

ation. The Ball had been absent at the University for 25 years until about three years ago when a group of students got together and decided to bring back the tradition, Homecoming Ball finance coordinator Mary Elizabeth Madden said.

"We say the dance is formal, but we ask students to just look nice," Madden said. "We've had students come in khaki pants and a nice shirt to a tuxedo."

Anna Seeley is a student activities reporter for the Oregon Daily Emerald. She can be reached at annaseeley@dailymerald.com.

Fall Family Weekend and Homecoming Events:

"The Atlas of Oregon" book signing

When: Friday at 4:30 p.m.

Where: Knight Library Browsing Room

Free

Homecoming Ball: "An Emerald Evening"

When: Friday from 8:30 p.m. - 12:30 a.m.

Where: EMU Ballroom

Tickets are \$12

School of Music Homecoming Concert

When: Friday at 8 p.m.

Where: Beall Hall

Free

125 Years of the University of Oregon

What: Campus tour with Mary Hudzikiewicz

When: Sunday 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Where: Meet at the corner of 13th Avenue and University Street

Free

University Symphony

When: Sunday at 3 p.m.

Where: Beall Hall

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Source: Office of Student Life

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