

Arts & ENTERTAINMENT

History Center Pulls Out Treasures



An Egyptian statute that once greeted visitors to the former Aladdin Restaurant at Lloyd Center is part of the Treasures of the Vault exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society.

From the rare and priceless to the peculiar and mysterious, the artifacts in the Oregon Historical Society's collections document everything from key moments in Oregon history to the minute details of daily life.

The society's 100,000 square foot vault is home to over 85,000 artifacts. Some of these gems of Oregon history are permanently on display in the museum, but many are tucked away in the OHS vault and rarely seen.

Interim Oregon Historical Society Executive Director Kerry Tymchuk decided that it was time to shed some light on some of the lesser known pieces.

"Treasures of the Vault," now showing through Feb. 12, brings out some of our most interesting and seldom seen pieces of history, said Tymchuk.

One of the interesting stories told in this exhibit comes from two stunning golden Egyptian statues. Those who have moved to Portland in the last few decades would have no recollection of these pieces of art. In fact, these statues used to flank the Aladdin Restaurant, which was located on the 3rd floor of the 300,000 square foot Meier & Frank store in the Lloyd Center Mall.

The Aladdin became a popular restaurant as it overlooked the mall's skating rink. It closed in 1990 when Lloyd Center was remodeled, and the space that the Aladdin used to occupy is the current home for the mall's food court. Luckily, these statues survived the remodel and were donated to the OHS collection in 2004.

Another fascinating artifact that will be on display is the control panel from the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant. Construction of the plant began in 1970, and it was the only nuclear power plant to exist in Oregon.

Visitors will enjoy many stories of Oregon's past, told through the artifacts that have survived over the years.

Museum hours are Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday from Noon to 5 p.m.



A U.S. Army uniform from Oregon's early days is part of a new exhibit at the Oregon Historical Society, downtown.

Jackson Assistant Publishes Expose Book

A friend and employee tells about Jackson's drug use

(AP) — A personal assistant-turned-personal manager to Michael Jackson said the King of Pop had been taking propofol as early as 1999, and that the singer was drugged up ahead of his 2001 30th anniversary concerts.

Frank Cascio, who became a family friend to Jackson at age 5 and eventually one of the singer's closest friends and employees, writes in a new book that he first noticed Jackson taking the drug Demerol while accompanying the singer on his "Dangerous" tour in 1993.

He writes in his new book, "My Friend Michael: An Ordinary Friendship with an Extraordinary Man,"



Michael Jackson

that Jackson started the first of two anniversary shows in 2001 an hour late as a result of being drugged up in his dressing room.

"My naive belief that Michael wouldn't let his medicine interfere with the show blew up in my face," Cascio writes. "I can't begin to describe my disappointment and panic at this moment."

He says Jackson was first introduced to Demerol in 1984 when he

burned his head during a Pepsi commercial shoot, and Cascio writes that he first noticed Jackson using the medicine on his "Dangerous" tour.

Cascio says Jackson also took propofol in 1999 in Munich when the singer was 50 feet in the air and instead of coming down slowly, the platform Jackson was on fell down. Cascio also writes that Jackson had taken Demerol to treat the skin disease vitiligo, and grew worried about his drug use.

Cascio said he wanted to seek out help, but didn't know who to turn to. Ahead of Jackson's 2001 anniversary shows, he said he spoke to Janet, Randy and Tito about their brother's drug use. He writes that Jackson's siblings approached him, but the singer "simply pushed them away."

The pop star's doctor, Conrad Murray, was convicted Nov. 7 of involuntary manslaughter for supplying the insomnia-plagued Jackson with the powerful operating-room

anesthetic propofol to help him sleep as he rehearsed for his big comeback.

Cascio writes that he and Jackson "had gotten stoned on a few occasions up in the mountains," and that Jackson would drink wine

out of juice bottles and soda cans.

Throughout the book, Cascio writes that Jackson never had sex with children, but had a love for them and wanted to father 10 kids in total.


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