

Students, firefighters team up for food drive

Students in Ms. Casey's fifth-grade class at Bohemia Elementary and South Lane Fire personnel load up about 1152 pounds of food for their annual Food Drive. Schools in Cottage Grove and Creswell brought in 15,042 pounds of food for local food pantries. Ms. Clearwater's kindergarten class at Creslane led donations with 2401 pounds. Dorena, London, Harrison and Latham elementaries brought in 238, 238, 2387 and 826 pounds, respectively.



photo by Duane Taddei

T&T

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stepfather, Jim, with both families migrating to Winnipeg, Canada. Both Dick and Jim were the second of four children, with the same combination of brothers and sisters in the same birth order, and all of the siblings remaining childless after marriage. Faith and my mother had attended the same high school. An amazing list of coincidences, as if the two women were reading from identical books of life, reiterating one similar experience after another.

How was it possible to dial a

long distance number on Christmas morning, but end up connecting with a "local" person who needed us as much as we needed her?! Unbelievably mysterious--God obviously works overtime on Christmas; how else could I have possibly connected to a "stranger" who is actually "family" with a last name of Holden?! It is a Christmas and a miracle we will never forget! And the clincher: Faith revealed that her phone number is UNLISTED! So, even if we had wanted to locate her, we could not have, adding evening more

mystery to this Christmas Morning Miracle!

May your holidays be magical, filled with miracles, family and friends. And if the holidays look dull create some magic and memories for others.

PS

Now you know the "secret" behind naming my second miracle book, "A Christmas Filled With Miracles". We can all "Expect Miracles" which is the title of my first book. For autographed copies email me at AngelScribe@

msn.com or <http://angelscribe.com/miraclebooks> and find them at the Bookmine.

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OFFBEAT

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but shares only a name with the short-lived organization that was founded at that time. Its true founding date was 1922.)

When the OHS was launched in 1900, it was clear that it would be carrying forward in the same style as the OPA, only with more professionalism. Professor Young was named editor of a new professional peer-reviewed journal, the Oregon Historical Quarterly. Scott became the president. And Himes, gregarious and enthusiastic as always, became the curator of the new organization's collections — almost all of which had been collected by Himes himself.


The early years of the Oregon Historical Society have been criticized by modern historians such as E. Kimbark MacColl for being too boosterish, too interested in presenting a glorious Oregon story of bravery, nobility and regional exceptionalism, and insufficiently willing to own up to tales of darkness and meanness. Certainly the Historical Society was not the place to go to learn about shanghaiers, bootleggers, bordellos, opium dens and political corruption. Those stories would be supplied later, by jaded newspaper raconteurs such as Stewart Holbrook and Herbert Lundy. But although Himes probably approved of this sort of silent whitewashing of the state's history, that wasn't his department. His specialty — at first just a hobby, but after 1902 his full-time occupation

— was building that massive collection of artifacts, unvarnished pieces of a fast-fading past: Old books, manuscripts, photos, transcripts of more than 7,000 interviews he'd conducted with pioneers, and plenty of articles carrying his own by-line.

It's entirely possible that, if transported to the modern day, George Himes would be labeled a hoarder. Especially when he was first embarking on his lifelong collecting habit, when the artifacts he was saving — newspaper clippings, old letters, memoranda with important people's signatures on them, that kind of thing — were not yet old enough to be rare or cherished. But by saving all those things, and adding to them over a lifetime of travels and interviews and searchings-out, Himes probably contributed more to the study of Oregon history than any other single individual — and his collections are still contributing to it today.

(Sources: Laugesen, Amanda. "George Himes, F.G. Young, and the Early Years of the OHS," Oregon Historical Quarterly, spring 2000; Wexler, Geoffrey. "George Himes (1844-1940)," The Oregon Encyclopedia, oregonencyclopedia.org)

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Whether you are home for the holidays or here in spirit, you are in our hearts. Folks like you make us especially proud to be Americans.

Happy Holidays & Thanks to Our Troops

As we reflect on the blessings for which we are most grateful at Christmastime, our freedom and those who protect it are at the top of our list. To the brave men and women of our military, go our sincere thanks, respect and best wishes for a great holiday. We salute your service and your sacrifice.

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