

Taylor's Building going back in time with 'complete renovation'

By Emily Mentzer
The Itemizer-Observer

INDEPENDENCE — Layer by layer, Bodie Bemrose is stripping off the new and restoring the old at the Taylor's building at the corner of Monmouth and Main streets.

"I'm doing a complete renovation of the building to bring it back to what it would have looked like in the late 1890s," Bemrose said. "The building is over 130 years old, and had undergone many remodels over the years. It was very tired and in desperate need to be repaired and renovated."

He has to be careful removing the layers of remodel.

"Not just because you could accidentally knock the building down, but because of all the historic clues the building reveals about what went on and at what decade that is important so you achieve the correct look," he said. "The wood and steel has to go in one way — the way they did it 100 years ago — not how you 'think' they did it."

The job is extensive — in some ways, more so than Bemrose's recently completed work at the Cooper Building down the street from Taylor's.

"Everything is being addressed at the site — however with a careful eye to the details — and to be historically accurate," he said. "For



EMILY MENTZER/Itemizer-Observer

A careful restoration is underway at Taylor's Building.

example, the ceilings will go back to their original height at 16 feet, and the old mezzanine level in the back that was covered up from the 1960s dropped ceiling will

now be exposed and utilized again. The brick will be exposed on the inside of the building as well."

Bemrose is also restoring an old storefront on Monmouth Street that had been covered up for decades.

"That is a potential smaller retail space," he said. "However, we're trying to find the right business — one that is quality and reminiscent of Taylor's. One that will make for a busy corner for the downtown again, like Taylor's was for so many decades."

Bemrose's attention to detail when it comes to restoring old buildings was acknowledged with awards from the state, including a Diamonds in the Rough

Grant and an Oregon Heritage Excellence Award from the Oregon Heritage Museum.

Most recently, he was given the Outstanding Historic Renovation Project from Oregon Main Street on Sept. 15.

Bemrose said he enjoys the before-and-after stories after completing massive renovation projects on historic buildings.

"Seeing buildings that look impossible to save, and seeing what they look like completely renovated with new life in them that the community can enjoy and be part of," he said. "It's not for the money, I can tell you that. There are easier ways to make money."

OBITUARIES

John Errol Phelps

March 9, 1926 – Sept. 1, 2016

John Errol Phelps, 90, formerly of Dallas, recently of Salem, died Sept. 1.

He was born in East Beaver to Bernard and Pearl Phelps. He was one of 11 children; seven brothers and three sisters preceded him in death.

In his early years, he worked the farm, the "green" house on Deer Creek, north of Otis, with his brothers.

The Phelps family was so large that they had their own Boy Scout Troop. As a Boy Scout, John and his brothers hiked the forests of North Lincoln County and Cascade Head. John attended Taft High School in Lincoln City.

John enlisted in the U.S. Navy one day before his 18th birthday. He served in the invasion of France during World War II, aboard a Tank Landing Ship, USS LST 692 and later served on USS LST 561. During his tour his travels included France, Italy, Greece, and Oran.

In January 1948, John married Joanna Jean Larson, whom he had met at Taft High School. He and his wife settled in Tualatin and began their family. They moved from Tualatin to McMinnville and after a number of years they settled in Dallas.

John operated trucks most of his career. He was known as "Farmer John" to those in the logging business and he owned and operated his own log truck. He enjoyed working on his 1938 Ford with his sons, car shows, square dancing, country and gospel music, hunting, gardening, the Oregon coast and his many pets.

John is survived by wife of 68 years, Joanna; sons, Steven Phelps and Ronald Phelps; daughter, Tamara Inman; two grandsons; one granddaughter and a great-grandson.

Memorial Service will be held at 11 a.m. on Oct. 8 at Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center, 287 SW Washington St., Dallas.

A private interment service will be held for family.

In lieu of flowers, family asks that donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

To leave a message or a memory for the family go to www.dallastrIBUTE.com. The Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

Lee Kroeker

Nov. 29, 1927 – Sept. 19, 2016

Lee Kroeker, 88, of Dallas, died on Sept. 19.

He was born in Dallas to Henry and Lydia Fast Kroeker. Lee attended Dallas High School and Biola Bible College. He married Verda Neufeld on Jan. 13, 1950. He worked in lumber mills all of his life, retiring as a certified grader from the Fort Hill Lumber Company.

He is survived by sons, Mike (Jackie) and Mark

(Amy), all of Dallas, Steve (Terri), of Salem; daughter, Debi Laughlin, of Dallas; 10 grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his wife, Verda, and grandson, Matthew Kroeker.

Services were held. To leave an online tribute: www.dallastrIBUTE.com. Dallas Mortuary Tribute Center handled arrangements.

Allan M. Dowler

Oct. 23, 1938 – Sept. 13, 2016

Allan Masamer Dowler, 77, of Dallas, died on Sept. 13.

He was born to Robert Allan Dowler and Doris Maurine Dowler (Massmore). He graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy in 1961, and married Mary Lou on April 20, 1968, in Poplar Springs, Md. Allan was an engineer and educator in the American Merchant Marine. After retirement, he spent his time working around the house and repairing old clocks and watches. He was a member of the local watch and clock club for many years.

Allan is survived by wife, Mary Lou Dowler; son, Todd A Dowler, of Montesano, Wash.; daughter, Candice A. D. Smith, of Portland; and four grandchildren.

Leatha June Jetton (Fleming)

June 22, 1938 – Sept. 19, 2016

Leatha "June" Jetton (Fleming), 78, died Sept. 19, 2016 in Salem.

She was born in Carmichael-by-the-sea, Calif. on June 22, 1938 to Ben and Lucille Fleming.

June and husband Dave Jetton, who preceded her in death in 2010, had five children in 6 1/2 years. Sue Wetzel, of Sheridan; David Jr., who died in 1997; Martin of Portland, James of Sacramento, Calif.; and Gypsie of Port Orchard, Wash. They

moved from Northern California in the early 1970s in their unique double decker blue trailer to Sheridan to help with Dave's dairy farm in Gopher Valley.

June graduated from Linfield College in 1985 after a 20-year hiatus from college to raise their children. June was part of a few churches in the Sheridan area and donated to many organizations she believed in — FFA, Local Historical Society. She was generous to those who needed help when necessary.

She believed that what goes around comes around. She helped many young and old persons get their GEDs and understand math and algebra problems. She will be missed by her many friends and family, her children and their spouses and her 11 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

A celebration of her life will be held Oct. 15 at noon at the Wetzel Farm or Buell Grange if weather prevents an outdoor gathering.

Donald Antone 'Coach' Spinas

Aug. 12, 1933 – Sept. 22, 2016

Donald Antone 'Coach' Spinas, 83, died Thursday.

He was born Aug. 12, 1933 to the parents of Sebastian Antone 'Tony' and Gladys Louise Robinson-Spinas in Grants Pass - Selma, Oregon.

Don ran track at University of Oregon under Bill Bowerman, and ran the 400 meter hurdles at the Olympic Trials. Don took his passion for track and field to his first teaching and coaching job at Central Point Junior High. In 1958, he served in the

U.S. Army in El Paso, Texas.

After his military services, he continued teaching and coaching at Central Point. From Central Point, he taught at Milwaukie High School until 1967 before accepting the head coaching position at Oregon College of Education, and later to become Western Oregon State College (now Western Oregon University).

Don went on to lead his track teams to four consecutive conference and district championships.

The 1972 team was the best team in the history of the small college track and field and cross country in the Pacific Northwest. Coach Spinas re-wrote the O.C.E record book.

His teams won nine NAA District 2 titles, and he served as an assistant meet director at two Olympic Trials. Don retired from WOSC in 1988, and was inducted into the NAA National Hall of Fame and the WOSC Hall of Fame.

Don's influence is still felt through his numerous students that have become teachers and coaches over the years.

Retirement provided him the opportunity to explore the Northwest and focus on fishing and hunting again. He is survived by his wife Sharon, his daughter Kathryn Lynn Katon, his son Michael Antone Spinas and his two step-children Tami Gilbreath and Shawn Monson. He is also survived by four grandchildren, one great grandchild, and two step-grand-children. He is also survived by his brothers Ronald Luther and Howard Edwin Spinas.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, a donation be made to Western Oregon University Athletic Track and Field and Cross Country scholarship fund in the name of Coach Spinas.

Farnstrom Mortuary is

handling arrangements. Share your memories and condolences at Farnstrom-Mortuary.com.

Daniel "Danny" Lowe Jr.

Dec. 23, 1967 - Sept. 11, 2016

Daniel "Danny" Lowe Jr., 48, of Monmouth, died unexpectedly in Providence Hospital in Everett, Wash-

ington while on a fishing trip. Danny was born on Dec. 23, 1967 in Salem, the son of Daniel and Jan Lucas Lowe. Danny grew up in Mon-

mouth and graduated from Central High School in 1986. After graduation he joined the U.S. Navy serving in San Diego, Calif. and served on a Destroyer at Norfolk Virginia Naval Station.

Upon completing his Naval service, he came back to Monmouth. Danny then worked for 10 years in Alaska as a commercial salmon and halibut fisherman from March through October. Danny then settled back in Monmouth where he managed Lowe's Family Trophy Shop.

He worked with his mother and they engraved plaques, trophies and name badges for the area schools and community. They also engraved name badges nationally and locally for the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Danny was a 29-year member of the local B.P.O.E Independence Elks Lodge #1950. Danny loved the outdoors and fishing was his passion.

Danny was a volunteer instructor with Project Healing Waters for Veterans in Salem. He taught fly tying and most recently fly rod building.

He is survived by his parents, Dan and Jan Lowe of Monmouth, sister Ronda (Chris) Bellamy of Dallas along with Brittanie (Hugh) McFall, Corrie Bellamy and Ian Bellamy and numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins.

A Celebration of Danny's Life will be held on Oct. 23 at 2 p.m. at the Independence Elks Lodge.

Memorial contributions may be made to the OHSU Oregon Elks Children's Eye Clinic Building Program or Project Healing Waters for Veterans in care of Bollman Funeral Home, 694 Main Street Dallas, Oregon 97338 who is caring for the family.

To leave an online condolence or share a memory for the family go to www.dallastrIBUTE.com

Sudoku solution

6	4	7	5	2	1	8	9	3
1	9	5	6	8	3	2	4	7
8	3	2	7	9	4	1	6	5
4	2	3	1	5	7	9	8	6
5	8	6	3	4	9	7	1	2
9	7	1	8	6	2	3	5	4
3	6	9	4	7	8	5	2	1
7	5	8	2	1	6	4	3	9
2	1	4	9	3	5	6	7	8

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