

LOCAL HISTORY

Baker Heritage Museum
opens for the season

GO!

NORTHEAST OREGON

MARCH 25, 2021

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NATATORIUM



THE NAT

The Baker Municipal Natatorium was built in 1923, 1921 and 1922 and officially opened in September 1921. The word "natatorium" means "a place for swimming indoors," and the Baker facility featured an Olympic-size pool. The second phase of the building program produced a large ballroom upstairs and a balcony around the pool.

The structure was designed by the popular local architect Michael P. White. The total cost was \$300,000, which included the purchase of Sun-O Springs (named for early owner Sam Ottenheimer). The 80' waters of Sun-O Springs, operating by gravity feed, rushed below the city's streets from one-half mile south-east of the Natatorium to provide a continuous flow of clean, warm water to the new swimming pool.

Also inside: The building served as a central meeting place for area residents on a regular basis. In the 1920s a community presented water shows. Later years saw the ballroom and balcony used as a roller skating rink.

ART CENTERS REBOUND

THE BOOK NOOK

MONTH-LONG WRITING WORKSHOP



Lisa Britton/Go! Magazine

A new exhibit at the Baker Heritage Museum details the building's history