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BY THE WAY

Help steer EOTEC's future with survey

Have an opinion about the Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center's future? The city wants to hear it.

EOTEC has been operating for over a year and in the city of Hermiston's control for a few months, and the advisory committee is offering an online survey in English and Spanish at www.eotecsurvey.com.

"If you don't know where you're going, then any road will get you there," said city manager **Byron Smith** in a statement. "We want to use this process to get a clear message from the community about what the EOTEC facility should look like 10 years from now, and that will allow us to avoid short-sighted opportunities which may compromise our path toward the community's ultimate goal."

Anyone who fills out the survey will be entered to win a \$50 Visa gift card or family passes to the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center. The city will also solicit feedback specifically from EOTEC customers, partners and others with an interest in the project.

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The **American Red Cross** is still facing a critical blood shortage, and

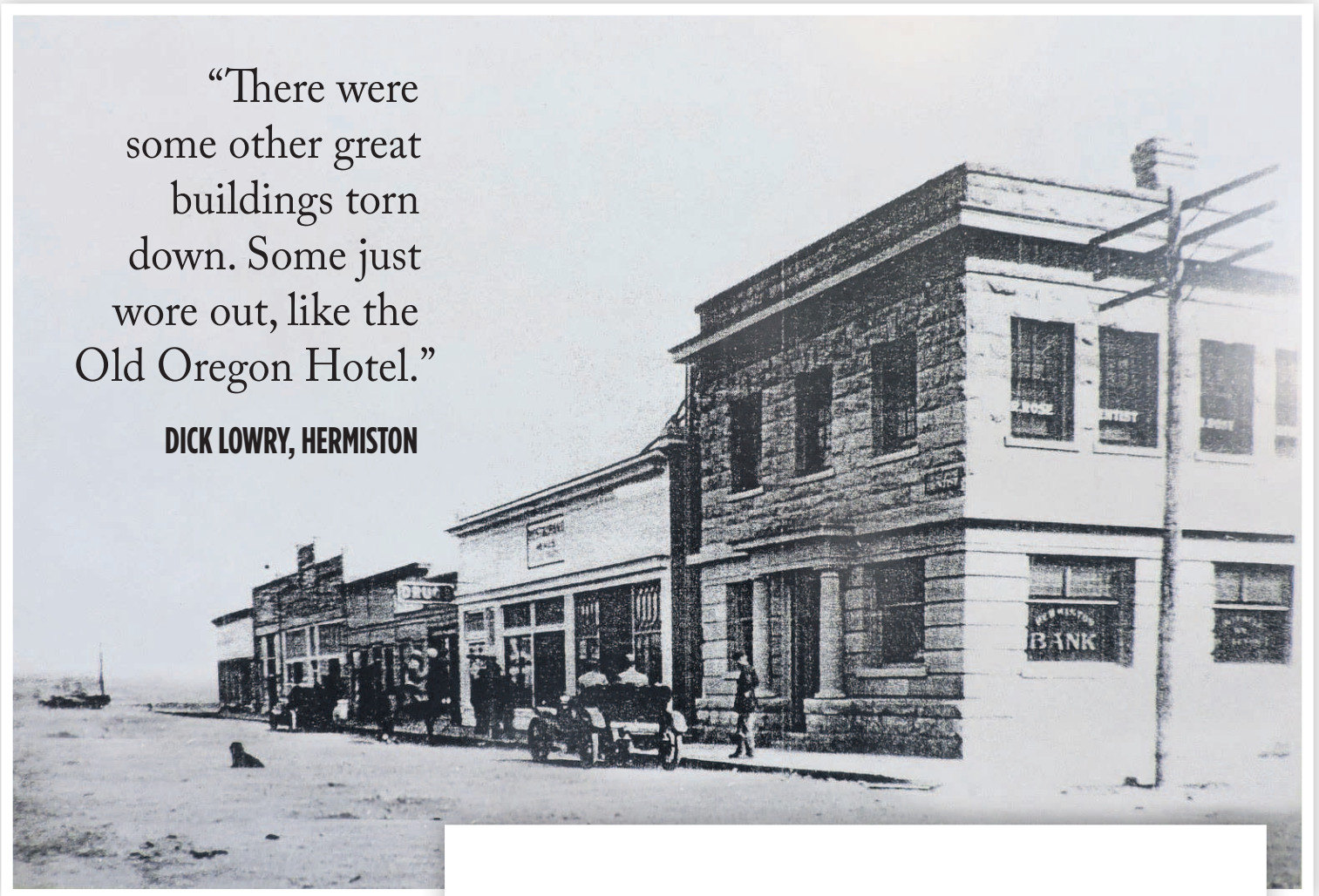
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The rest is history

How a fast-growing city maintains its past

"There were some other great buildings torn down. Some just wore out, like the Old Oregon Hotel."

DICK LOWRY, HERMISTON



Preservation of Hermiston's limited historic buildings is a struggle

By **JADE MCDOWELL**
STAFF WRITER

Hermiston only has one museum, and most of its residents haven't even been there.

"People say, 'I've lived here all my life and never heard of that,'" Connie Maret said.

Maret runs the Maxwell Siding Train Museum next to Hodge Park with John Spinden, offering up tours for a few hours each Saturday of antique train cars "chock full" of historical artifacts from Hermiston and the railroad. A majority of the free museum's visitors are from out of town.

Maret and Spinden would love to pass the museum on to some younger volunteers (at age 84, Maret said, he's "no spring chicken."). But they have had trouble interesting the next generation of Hermiston residents in preserving the town's history, of which the railroad is a major player.

"I know the stuff I've saved ever since I was a little bitty kid, my kids won't want it," he said. "Once it's gone, it will never come back."

There are pieces of Hermiston's history that have been preserved, in boxes of photographs at locals' homes and a few scattered



ABOVE (Photo contributed by Mitch Myers): Hermiston's Main Street in the early 1900s. BELOW (Staff photo by Jade McDowell): Hermiston's Main Street today.

historic buildings. An archway from the last iteration of Armand Larive Middle School stands near the public library as a testament to the many school buildings Hermiston has seen come and go over its more than century-long history. But Hermiston doesn't have any buildings on the National Register of Historic Places, despite being the biggest city in a county that has 42 sites on the registry (Pendleton has 16 of those; Echo has 10).

Carlisle Harrison, one of Hermiston's history enthusiasts, said some of Hermiston's lack of historical preservation has to do with how the town developed. It was small and very poor for the first few decades of its existence (the town was incorporated

in 1907), then saw a population explosion during the building of the McNary Dam and Umatilla Chemical Depot in the 1940s. At that point no one was as worried about eye-pleasing architecture as they were about getting buildings up fast and cheap.

The results, he said, were a lot of buildings that were "nothing to write home about" and not built to last into the next century.

"Things were practical and inexpensive," he said. "In Pendleton the moneyed wheat farmers came into town and built nice houses."

Harrison said that wasn't necessarily a

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Fair weathers the heat, learns from 2017

By **JAYATI RAMAKRISHNAN**
AND JADE MCDOWELL
STAFF WRITERS

Another year, another fair. Umatilla County Fair employees and community partners called the 2018 event a success, sticking with the things that worked and changing those that didn't.

Fair coordinator Angie McNalley said they wouldn't have numbers for fair attendance until later in the week, but said the busiest day of the fair was Saturday and the busiest evening was on Friday.

She said fair employees learned from last year's fair, the first in the new Eastern Oregon Trade and Event Center venue, and changed a few logistical things.

"We learned a lot last year about

foot traffic, and where to place things," she said. "We're still working on getting the flow moving in parts of the fair that people can't see right when they walk in. But we vastly improved (the flow)."

She said they also made parking more efficient than last year, bringing in people from the Toyota Center in Kennewick to help.

Though it was hot and windy, McNalley said people still came out, and that the weather sent people into the air-conditioned building more often, driving traffic to vendors and to the 4-H exhibits.

"We can't plan the weather," she said. "We tried to make up for that with misters, and some of our vendors stepped up as well."

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STAFF PHOTO BY E.J. HARRIS

A pair of hogs sleep next to each other during the mid-day heat Friday in the swine barn at the Umatilla County Fair in Hermiston.



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