

VISTA HOUSE VIEWS

FOVH NEWSLETTER—SPRING 2011

INTRODUCING EDGAR LAZARUS, THE ARCHITECT OF VISTA HOUSE

By Ed Teague, Architecture & Allied Arts Library, University of Oregon

(Editor's note: On April 2, 2011, Mr. Teague spoke with the Friends of Vista House about Edgar Lazarus, the architect of the iconic monument to Oregon's pioneers. This article shares some highlights of that presentation. For more information about Edgar Lazarus, including sources for this article, visit the web site "Edgar M. Lazarus, Architect," <http://pages.uoregon.edu/ehteague/lazarus/>.)

The story of Edgar Lazarus begins in Charleston, S. C., where his family was part of a thriving Jewish community that had existed since the early 1700s. In fact, Lazarus claimed that his family came to the Americas from Spain in the 16th century with De Soto's explorations. Lazarus's mother and father married in 1864 during the Civil War. His mother, Minnie Mordecai, was the daughter of wealthy merchant Moses Mordecai, whose ships sailed throughout the Caribbean. His father, also named Edgar, returned to Charleston to join the Confederate Army after studying at the University of Heidelberg. Following the war's end in 1865, the Reconstruction government made life uncomfortable for wealthy former Confederates. The Lazarus and Mordecai families sold what they could and in 1867 moved to Baltimore. They soon reestablished their fortunes and became an integral part of Baltimore society.

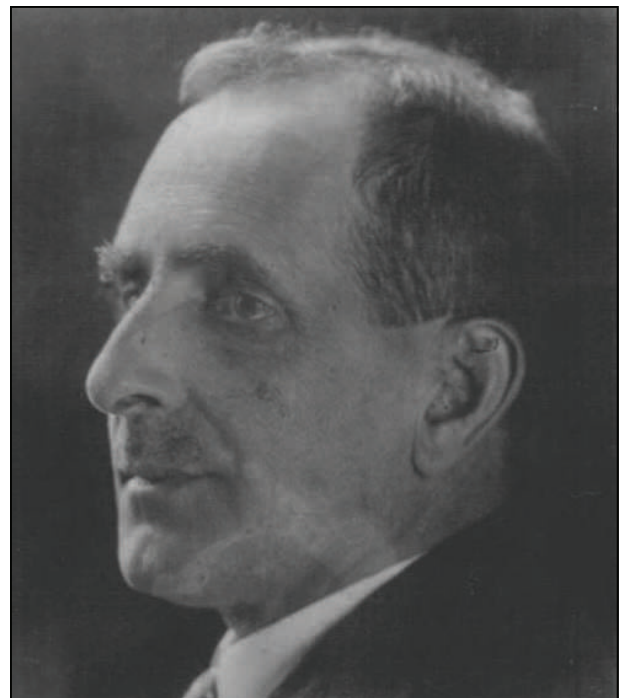
On June 6, 1868, Edgar Marks Lazarus, Jr., was born in Baltimore. After attending public schools, he studied architecture at the Maryland Institute of Art and Design, from which he graduated in 1888, the year his father died. He was soon employed in nearby Washington, D. C., as an architect with the U. S. Army Quartermaster Corps. In that role, he primarily designed utilitarian buildings for the military.

In 1891, Lazarus resigned from the civil service and moved Portland with the intent of working in real estate. He soon partnered with architect William M. Ellicott to create the firm, Ellicott & Lazarus. Born in Philadelphia, Ellicott came from a distinguished Maryland family for whom the town, Ellicott City, is named. Lazarus possibly knew Ellicott before arriving in Portland.

Ellicott's grandfather and uncles were Baltimore commission merchants just like Lazarus's father. Ellicott brought to the firm impressive skills: he studied at Haverford, the University of Pennsylvania, and at a prestigious architectural atelier in Paris. The known works of Ellicott & Lazarus are few, but include the first building for the Oregon Institute of the Blind, Salem; the first Multnomah Amateur Athletic Club building, Portland; and the Maryland University Hospital at Baltimore. Lazarus alone is usually credited with houses designed while this firm existed. The existing works are in a Queen Anne Shingle Style characterized by steeply pitched roofs, turrets, multiple gables, a great variety of window treatments, and shingle siding. The George F. Heusner house, 333 NW 20th Avenue, is a local favorite. In 1895, Ellicott moved to Baltimore and became a distinguished architect associated with the firm, Ellicott and Emmart.

In Portland, Lazarus led a busy social life that included memberships in various social and athletic clubs. He was a founder of the Portland Hunt Club, an organization that staged horse rides and races in a variety of venues throughout the city. As a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club, he was a natural pick to design in 1901 the second, greatly expanded building and grounds for that organization. This short-lived building burned in 1910.

Following Ellicott's departure, Lazarus returned to civil service as a Superintendent of Construction of Public Works for the U. S. government, an assignment that made him onsite manager *(Continued, Page 2)*



*Portrait of Edgar Lazarus, date unknown.
(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)*

(Lazarus..., Continued from Page 1) of small-scale construction projects. This position helped him secure a supervisory role for constructing a much larger project, the new U. S. Custom House, designed by the U. S. Office of the Supervising Architect headed by James Knox Taylor. Completed in 1901, this building, at 220 NW 8th Avenue, still delights onlookers with its exuberant decoration.

From 1898 to 1901, Lazarus also designed the early buildings for three state schools: Eastern Oregon State Normal School (in its first location, Weston), Oregon Agricultural College (Oregon State University), and the University of Oregon.

Lazarus won the competition in 1901 for Morrow County's new courthouse and the building, which opened in 1903, demonstrates a craftsmanship and use of local materials that brings to mind the later Vista House. In 1904 Lazarus secured another major commission, the new courthouse for Clatsop County, Astoria, which was completed in 1908. From 1903 to 1904, Lazarus was engaged in the design and construction of another courthouse, the extension of the 1875 post office and courthouse known today as Pioneer Courthouse. The unpopular design by the Supervising Architect's office was replaced with the two wing version designed by Lazarus. In 1904, Lazarus was asked by the government to transfer to Missouri and, because of a new law, to give up private practice as well...he chose to resign from civil service and continue his private practice in Portland.

Lazarus's architecture for the Jewish community included the first Neighborhood House, an educational and social center which provided



*George F. Heusner House, 333 NW 20th Avenue, designed by Lazarus 1892.
(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)*

special assistance to new immigrants to Portland. The Ahavai Shalom Synagogue, built in 1904, was a Portland landmark until 1978 when it was destroyed.

The idea for a grand exposition organized around the centennial of the Lewis & Clark expedition began percolating in 1900. Portland's leading architects drew lots for the major structures whose designs were completed by December 1903. The building by Lazarus, the Palace of Agriculture, was the largest building at the fair and perhaps the most spectacular



*Frederick V. Holman House (1892), 1500 SW Taylor Street.
(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)*

with its massive gold dome. On June 1, 1905, the Lewis and Clark Centennial and American Pacific Exposition and Oriental Fair opened. The fair ushered in an unprecedented period of growth for the city; the value of building permits jumped 450% from 1905 to 1911.

Throughout his life, Lazarus sold and managed real estate. In 1905, he acquired property at 14th Avenue and Washington Street with the aim of building a residential hotel, the first of its kind in that section of Portland. The building was first called the Nortonia Hotel (1907) and then the Danmoore Hotel (1908). In 1909, Lazarus renamed the building Hotel Ramapo, probably after a prize-winning racehorse. In 1955 the Ramapo became the Taft Hotel and exists today as a residential facility for people with special needs. Very little of its outward appearance has changed over the years.

(Continued on Page 7)

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

At the recent FOVH Annual Membership Meeting, "membership" was in the spotlight. The Board has determined "membership" to be a top objective for the coming year and Board member, Marie Miller, is developing an exciting membership recruitment campaign to increase our ranks and improve our financial resources. You can expect to hear more about our progress in the weeks and months to come.



We have all heard the expression that "strength comes in numbers" and as our membership numbers increase we can expect more strength in our ability to expand and improve services offered by FOVH. Increased membership also offers us a means by which we can measure our progress as compared to the other Friends groups throughout the Oregon State Parks system.

As we grow our membership we anticipate our volunteer pool will also increase. Volunteers are the most visible element of Vista House as they are on the frontlines of public contact. It is not easy to measure their impact but feedback seems to judge them highly.

Another benefit of having a strong membership is to encourage those who would seek to become a member of the Board of Directors and even serve as an officer. Our current board would like to increase the size of the board to give active members a chance to participate in the leadership of FOVH. We want to be a role model of success in the way we conduct our business and achieve our goals. With your support, as an active member, every effort will be made to meet your expectations. 2011 may be our best year yet!

Ernie Drapela
President



FRIENDS OF VISTA HOUSE
gratefully acknowledges and
expresses appreciation
to
**THE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION
For Southwest Washington**
Chester & Marion Beals Memorial Fund
for the generous grant awarded to
assist in our mission-related
projects and programs.

FIFTH ANNUAL GORGE RIDE REGISTRATION OPEN By Jeanette Kloos

Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway (FHCRH) announce the fifth annual fundraising Gorge Ride to be held on June 11, 2011. Registration is now open through www.GorgeRide.com.

Bicyclists will again ride on the Historic Columbia River Highway from the Gorge Discovery Center to the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail in Mosier, continue on to the Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead east of Hood River and return. This 38.5-mile trip includes the vista at Rowena Crest, travel through the Mosier Twin Tunnels and a rest stop at historic Mayerdale.

Photos and information about last year's ride are available at hcrh.org/GorgeRide10.html or FriendsoftheHighway.com. Over 425 people participated in the 2010 Gorge Ride. Participants wrote after the ride: "*Beautiful! Awesome! Wonderful ride! Gorgeous scenery! Well organized with well-supported rest stops with terrific volunteers.*"

FHCRH supports the restoration and reconnection of the historic highway through the Columbia River Gorge. Our Vision is to restore and preserve the existing drivable portions of the historic highway to their 1920s appearance and link drivable portions with pedestrian and bicycle accessible connections, creating a continuous route through the Columbia River Gorge.





**Poet's
Shooting
Star**

*(Photo
courtesy of
Greg Lief.
Copyright (c)
Greg Lief 2007
[LiefPhotos.com])*

**HAIL THE POET!
By Lorna Hewitt**

The Poet's Shooting Star (*Dodecatheon poeti- cum*), a startlingly brilliant gift of the earth, lives up to its alluring and romantic name with the simple beauty of an orchid and flamboyant colors of a Marti Gras.

Actually in the primrose family, Poet's Shoot- ing Star blooms in early spring along both sides of the Gorge starting from the Catherine Creek and Tom McCall areas, moving west along the river with warming temperatures. As mountain snow recedes, the species can be found at higher elevations until mid-summer.

Found in moist, often boggy spots, its vivid purplish-pink petals, trimmed with yellow and white, stand out dramatically in the landscape even though their dainty size of 6- to 14-inches high is dwarfed amongst the surrounding vegeta- tion. The plants each produce 4 to 5 bowing flower heads, increasing the display of color.

Other species of Shooting Star can be totally white or bright pink without the yellow trim. "Mad Violet" and "Sailor Caps" are a few of the fun, colloquial names identifying the shooting star species in other areas of the country. In many respects, they seem to resemble a small rocket ship with fiery send-offs. But, however one views them, 'seeing is believing!' They're waiting for you to admire them now!



**ICONS IN THE SKY
By Lorna Hewitt**

As much as the sharp silhouettes of ragged cliffs and the radiant blue Columbia River identify the Gorge as an unparalleled realm of nature's beauty, local migrations of nesting Osprey define its ancient cycle of life.

Breathing through the lungs of flora and fauna the Gorge is alive and pulsating in various rhythms throughout the year. The spring arrival of Osprey ramps up the pace of bursting life as the annual rituals of renewal begin. Gliding, flapping, and chirping overhead with a sure command of the skies, it is an icon of the Gorge without which the air would be still and lacking in spirit.

Is there any thrill like watching an Osprey hover, eyes fixed in a downward stare, over its intended prey while gauging its dive trajectory for the watery quest below? One can only imagine the instinctual calculations in process leading to the precision strike from 30 to 60 feet above the water. The feathery master emerges with its



**Osprey
(Photo courtesy of Laurie Golden.)**

silvery prize that is quickly positioned aerody- namically, head first in the Osprey's talons.

Nests abound on river markers, trees, and fab- ricated platforms throughout the area, where nes- tlings are fed by parent birds from the river's abundant supply of fish, which represents 99% of their diet.

Typically, one to four eggs are produced each year with the female bird staying on the nest while the male provides food during the incubation pe- riod of about 38 days. Fledging will take place around 52 days after hatching *(Continued, Page 6)*



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

May is almost here, the spring flowers are in bloom and the rain seems to be easing off with the much-relished sunshine beaming down at last! YEA!

Rain or shine,

things have been busy since the season began. On April 2 we held another successful Volunteer Training and were privileged to enjoy Ed Teague (author of this issue's feature article) speak on Vista House's esteemed architect to learn many things that are not common knowledge. I hope you enjoy learning more as well.

And we have a birthday party coming up. Vista House will be 93 years old on May 5 and celebrations are in order. During the day, our visitors will enjoy birthday cake provided by OPRD; FOVH is hosting a Members' Event in the evening to show our appreciation to all of you who have helped support the organization through your membership donations. As noted in Ernie's comments, this event will "kick off" our efforts to grow our membership and to introduce Friends of Vista House to folks who may not be familiar with the organization or our role in providing the important volunteer and educational services for Vista House.

If you are not yet a member, or if you would like to renew, please use the application on the last page of this newsletter (or go to the website) to send in your membership donation. We will be happy to send you a Birthday Invitation so that you can join fellow members for a fun evening. Also remember, your membership allows you to receive a discount in our fabulous gift shop where you can find one-of-a-kind hand-crafted items that reflect Vista House and this magical place.

Most importantly, your membership dollars enable us to provide the important programs and services that our visitors depend on. As we grow our numbers, we will also be able to expand our ability to complete more substantial projects for Vista House. Thanks for your support. Hope to see you May 5th!

Louise Yarbrough
Executive Director



Don & Barbara Brandt enjoying lunch at the 2010 Volunteer-Member Picnic.

DON & BARBARA BRANDT FEATURED VOLUNTEERS

Don and Barbara Brandt are long-time Vista House Volunteers, Barbara joining in 1985 and Don in 1987. Barbara "discovered" Vista House one summer when she, her mother and Don's mother went blueberry picking in Springdale. They met the farm's owner, Dorothy Klock, and the dedication began!

Both Don and Barbara are avid members of the Mt. Hood Rock Club and have, for many years, provided beautiful Thunder eggs for us to sell in the shop. As the Rock Club grew, they recruited other members and created a life-long volunteer presence at Vista House every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. They live in Boring in the house they bought in 1968 where they built their own rock shop and continue to cut and polish to their hearts' content!

During WWII, Don served 2 years in the South Pacific working in the engine room of a PT boat. Long after the war when a PT boat in San Francisco Bay was about to be sunk, Don and some fellow PT'ers got possession of the boat, brought it to Camp Withecomb and restored the engine; it then went to Swan Island for the balance of the restoration and is now the only running PT boat in the world. During the Rose Festival, you can see it tied up along the waterfront with the other much larger vessels where on-board tours are offered.

The Brandts have 2 children, 2 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren who keep them busy when they're not "rockin' out" or volunteering! Thanks, Don and Barbara, for your many years of dedication to Vista House!



Ospreys Nesting
(Photo courtesy of Laurie Golden.)

(Osprey, Continued from Page 5) with both parents feeding the young until they are able to fish and feed themselves; usually several weeks.

As long as adult Ospreys are healthy, they have little to be concerned about from predators if they are not on the ground. However, unattended eggs and small nestlings are subject to predation by foxes, skunks, raccoons, crows, and even other birds of prey.

A Bald Eagle was seen taking a juvenile from a nest along the Columbia River and, when harried by a parent Osprey, dropped it in the river where it was picked up by a boater and delivered to the Audubon Care Center. Fortunately, the nestling was in reasonably good condition after the ordeal, was tended to for a few weeks, and then released to the same area where it had been found. Shortly, Ospreys thought to be the parents landed close to the release site, creating the perfect happy-ever-after ending.

Practice sessions of nesting behavior, or playing house, can be seen with fledglings at the top of tall cottonwood and deciduous trees, as they won't produce eggs until ages 3-5. Funny looking, lop-sided and gangly practice nests perch awkwardly on tops of tall cottonwood and deciduous trees or snags, as the apprenticeship evolves to professional standards for the very serious work ahead.



**OFF THE BEATEN PATHS...
ELOWAH FALLS &
UPPER MCCORD CREEK FALLS
By Lorna Hewitt**

Thundering waterfalls are gushing everywhere along the Gorge cliffs this time of year, and it's a great opportunity to get out and see the height of this dynamic power and beauty.

For a minimum hike with maximum impact and an authentic sense of the Gorge trails, Elowah Falls and Upper McCord Creek Falls are a great choice. Elowah Falls is only 0.8 mile from the parking lot at John Yeon State Park, which is a joint trailhead for a strenuous hike to Nesmith Point, as well. Trail #400 to Elowah Falls heads immediately left, parallel to Frontage Road.

Massive firs and hemlocks are the trail sentinels before switchbacks allow a gentle descent into the canyon basin along McCord Creek. You're almost there and now within earshot of the 289-foot, pounding rush of water bursting from cliff's edge with a straight plunge into the frothing pool below. At peak flow, mist rises and drifts high into the air from the crashing waters, drenching the wooden bridge across the creek; a camera-ready scene.

Return on the same trail for 0.4 mile and turn left at the fork to Upper McCord Creek Falls, ascending to cliff ledges of solid basalt rock adorned with hanging plants and wildflowers. Expansive views emerge of the Columbia River, *(Continued on Page 7)*



Upper McCord Creek Falls
(Photo courtesy of Lorna Hewitt.)

(Off the Beaten Paths..., Continued from Page 6)
Washington's Hamilton Mountain, and iconic Beacon Rock jutting skyward. Twin falls, from 60 to 100 feet, reward hikers to this hidden wonder from 600 feet above the river below.



Elowah Falls

(Photo courtesy of Lorna Hewitt.)

Hike Distance: 3.0 miles RT

Elevation Gain: 600 feet

Directions:

I-84 East from Portland

Exit #35 – Ainsworth Park

Left toward Dodson

Sharp right onto Frontage Road for 2.1 miles

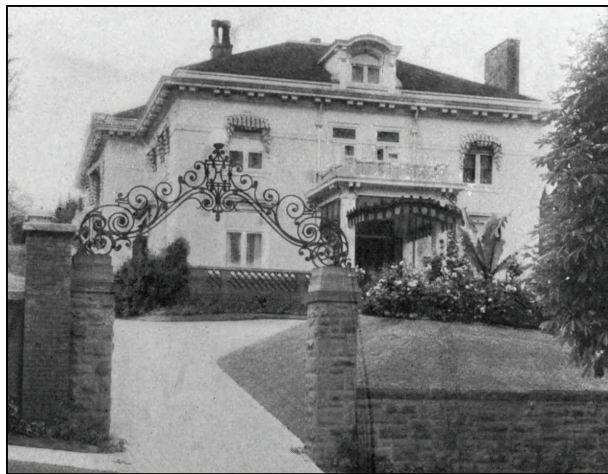
John B Yeon State Park parking lot on right



(Introducing Edgar Lazarus..., Continued from Page 2)

The most lavish home designed by Lazarus was for his friend, Mrs. Solomon Hirsch, widow of the respected Oregon politician who had served as U. S. ambassador to Turkey. Mrs. Hirsch, a local benefactor, was a leader in the women's suffrage movement. In 1937, the last heir of the Hirsch family bequeathed the property at West Burnside

Street and SW Vista Avenue to the Portland Art Museum. After some discussion about using the house as exhibit space, the museum's agent sold the property to an oil company. Lazarus agreed with the decision, stating that restoring the home would be too difficult. In late 1938, the house was destroyed, and the site continues to be used as a service station.



Home of Mrs. Solomon Hirsh, built in 1907 at W. Burnside & SW Vista, demolished in 1938.

(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)

Inspired by the successful showing of Oregon livestock at the Lewis & Clark exposition, the Portland Country Club and Livestock Association was formed in 1906 to create a permanent venue for livestock shows and sales. By January 1908 Lazarus had completed plans for the project, to be built on a site adjacent to the developing community called Rose City Park. The complex, largely finished by September 1908, included a grandstand, an elliptical track, a jockey house, clubhouse, entrance building, and up to twenty other structures including barns and stables. In time this site was known as Rose City Racetrack, and it featured events such as auto racing, Oregon's first airmail flight, and even colliding locomotives. Sold to the city in 1921, the racetrack grounds evolved into Rose City Golf Course. The jockey clubhouse exists today as a private residence.

In February 1909, Lazarus joined Morris H. Whitehouse and J. Andres Fouilhoux to form the partnership, Lazarus, Whitehouse, and Fouilhoux. Whitehouse was a native Portlander who studied architecture at MIT and in Paris. A native of France, Fouilhoux was an engineer. An initial major project of the firm was the central, domed section of the Oregon State Hospital Receiving Ward, Salem. Existing Portland works include the Mann Old People's Home, *(Continued on Page 9)*

DID YOU KNOW?

By Lorna Hewitt

NEAR CAPE HORN—Construction through the summer on Washington Hwy 14 near Cape Horn may result in delays of up to 20 minutes for motorists traveling east of Washougal, WA. Washington State Department of Transportation is constructing pedestrian tunnels, and reconfiguring segments of the highway to improve safety. Alternating single-lane traffic may be expected. For current information, please check the WSDOT online site: <http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/traffic/trafficalerts/default.aspx?route=SR%2014&view=main&action=3>



The Plaza (at Maryhill Museum) by GBD Architects. Watercolor rendering by C.S. Holmes.

MARYHILL MUSEUM—Maryhill Museum is currently undergoing a \$10 million dollar, 25,500 square-foot expansion, which includes 8,425sf underground, encompassing an education center, exhibits, collections suite, restrooms, and café. The project includes renovation of 3,545sf in existing spaces, a 11,825sf outdoor interpretive area overlooking the Columbia River, and a 1700sf gallery connecting the historic building to the new wing.

Estimated completion is in 2012 to coincide with the season opening. The Maryhill Museum will be open as usual from 10am to 5pm, March 15th through November 15th. <http://www.maryhillmuseum.org/expansion1.html>.

BIRD BLIND TOURS—*The Confluence Project* and the *Friends of Sandy River Delta* will be offering tours of the Delta and Maya Lin's *Bird Blind* art installation during the month of May.

As reported in the Winter 2010 FOVH Newsletter, the seven Maya Lin art projects along the Colum-

bia River were outlined, including the Bird Blind at Sandy River Delta on the north side of I-84, Exit #18 near Troutdale. A level path heading east from the parking lot of slightly over 1-mile ends at the confluence of both rivers and the remarkable Bird Blind.

Specific dates for the tours have not yet been set, but an online E-Newsletter for the Confluence Project will provide updates: www.confluenceproject.org – click on NEWS, and “subscribe to E-Newsletter.”



VISTA HOUSE OPEN DAILY 9AM—6 PM



Vista House Views Friends of Vista House

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George C. Campbell Home
1960 SW Vista Avenue, built in 1910.
(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)

(Lazarus..., Continued from Page 7) funded by Mrs. P. J. Mann as a memorial to her husband, and the Wickersham Apartments, where Lazarus lived with his sister 1915-1921. Among the fine residences designed by the firm is the Colonial Revival home for George L. Campbell, 1960 SW Vista Avenue, in the King's Hill Historic District.

Lazarus withdrew from the partnership in March 1910, and in May he went to Europe where he stayed for most of the year. His companion for part of the journey was world famous editorial cartoonist Homer Davenport of Silverton with whom Lazarus shared an interest in race horses.

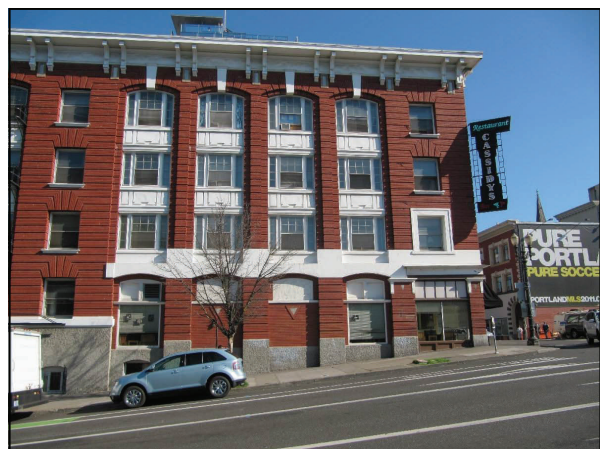
Upon his return to Portland in January 1911, Lazarus formed a partnership with architect Frank Logan. The major work of Lazarus & Logan was the South Wing for the Oregon State Hospital. Both men were strongly involved in the two leading professional organizations of that time. In 1911, Lazarus, Logan, and three others founded the Oregon Chapter of the American Institute of Architects (AIA), a national organization founded in 1857. Another professional group was the Portland Architectural Club which promoted architectural awareness through education, exhibits, and competitions. In 1913, Lazarus was president of the AIA Oregon Chapter while Logan was president of the Portland Architectural Club. In 1914, Logan left employment with Lazarus, probably because of a downturn in the economy.

A strong supporter of the Portland Art Museum, Lazarus was an occasional instructor in the museum's school. He and other collectors

periodically loaned items for museum exhibitions. Portraits of his grandparents by the French painter Daubigny, now in the Gibbs Art Museum, Charleston, were among items once exhibited.

An automobile enthusiast, Lazarus was an early advocate of the Columbia River Highway engineered by Sam Lancaster and supervised by John Yeon, county road master. In the summer of 1915 he was commissioned to draw plans for Vista House, a memorial to Oregon pioneers that would also serve as a comfort station and observatory. By October, his plans had expanded to incorporate a hotel surrounding the memorial, an idea promoted by entrepreneur R. R. Dabney. In May 1916, Lazarus was contracted by Yeon to superintend the construction of the building. Vista House was dedicated, with great fanfare, on May 5, 1918. The context and craftsmanship of Vista House place it firmly in the Arts and Crafts tradition of its time. Lazarus described the work to be of Tudor Gothic style, and its character and plan are reminiscent of English cathedral charterhouses.

For Lazarus, Vista House was a crowning achievement, but a success marred by two major disputes about compensation that played out in the press. Both disputes stemmed from the practice of basing an architect's fees as a percentage of the total cost of the work. In one case, a 1917 auditor's report revealed that the South Wing of the Oregon State Hospital cost 50% more than was reported when Lazarus was paid in 1912. Lazarus tried unsuccessfully to get compensated the difference. His suit against *(Continued, Pg 10)*



Originally, the Notonia/Danmoore/Ramapo/Taft Hotel (1906), 1337 SW Washington Street.
(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)

(Lazarus..., Continued from Page 9) Multnomah County regarding Vista House pointed out that the projected 1915 cost of \$20,000 evolved by 1918 to a final cost of approximately \$100,000. Lazarus actually won additional pay in 1919 for another dispute with the state. But at the widely reported mediation meeting, an embittered state employee lunged at Lazarus who was spared from assault by the intervention of Governor Olcott.

Not reported in the press was a major conflict among Lazarus and his professional colleagues. In 1918, the membership of the AIA Oregon Chapter petitioned that Lazarus resign from the chapter. The petition was basically payback by members who had been subjected to complaints or negative public remarks by Lazarus over the years. The probable tipping point was when Lazarus struck a colleague at an exhibition jury. Lazarus's AIA membership ended in 1919.

Perhaps a growing alienation with colleagues encouraged Lazarus, at age 53, to get married. He had probably known Fanny Hendricks for some time. Hendricks was born in Long Branch, New Jersey, where Lazarus's brother lived, and her father and uncles headed the famous Hendricks Brothers Company whose beginnings dated from the 18th century. On November 17, 1921, Fanny Hendricks and Edgar Lazarus were married in New York City. The subsequent leisurely life and travels of the couple could be tracked in the Oregonian's Society pages. They spent most of 1928 living in Paris, with the intent to remain in Europe, but Lazarus's health required the couple to return to Portland. In 1931, Mrs. Lazarus, already an heiress through her father's bequest, received a large portion of the estate of her uncle, a single man. Lazarus devoted more time to his art, and his prints were accepted in juried exhibitions.

On October 2, 1939, Edgar Lazarus died in Portland after a brief illness. Of the few works listed in his obituary, only Vista House existed at the time of his death. The first serious attempt to review his work, albeit only a few houses on Flanders Street, was author Carl Goh's article in *The Oregonian* entitled "Mr. Lazarus Lives." A broader view of the architect's output is now being constructed by consulting resources increasingly available online, such as full-text newspapers and government reports. *(Continued, Page 11)*



*Antique cars traveling through the Mosier Twin Tunnels.
(Photo courtesy of Peg Willis.)*

ANTIQUA CAR TOURS THROUGH MOSIER TWIN TUNNELS

By Jeanette Kloos

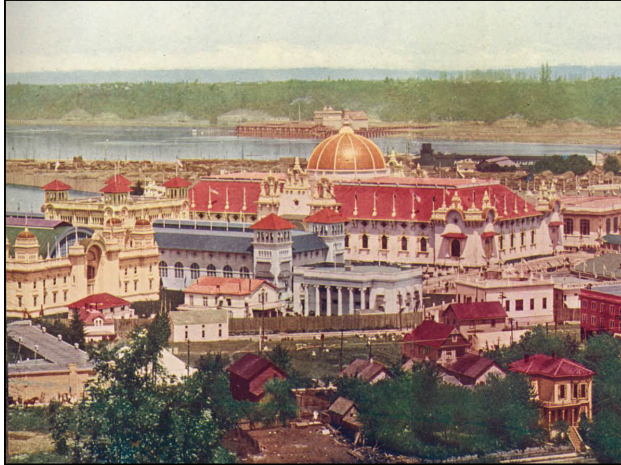
This year, the antique car tours have been expanded to travel through Mosier to Rowena Crest. This will allow more people to see the "parade" and allow participants to see more of the Historic Columbia River Highway's magnificent views of the Columbia River Gorge.

The Friends of the Historic Columbia River Highway are organizing their second tour, July 9, 2011. This tour will begin and end at the [Western Antique Aeroplane and Automobile Museum](#) (WAAAM) in Hood River. Discounted admission to WAAAM will be available. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is organizing another tour, tentatively scheduled for August 20, with the start and end at the Senator Mark O. Hatfield West Trailhead, east of Hood River.

The first forty qualifying cars (built before 1950) to register with OPRD Ranger Matt Davey (Matthew.Davey@state.or.us or 503-793-7463) will be included in this year's tour. Car owners who can take multiple passengers are encouraged to register.

People who would like to be passengers in the antique cars should contact Jeanette Kloos (FHCRH@comcast.net or 503-227-5638). The number of passengers that can be accommodated will be determined by the number of available seats in the vehicles.

(Lazarus..., Continued from Page 10) However, important information now being revealed about Lazarus is not just in digital format. In the collections of the University of Oregon Libraries is a catalog of the German architectural exhibit at the 1904 St. Louis's World Exposition. This book is



*Palace of Agriculture Building at the Lewis & Clark Exposition in 1908.
(Photo courtesy University of Oregon Libraries.)*

full of handwritten annotations about color schemes and fabrics. The bookplate reveals that the book came from the library of Edgar M. Lazarus, and was a 1941 gift of Mrs. Lazarus. Also worth noting is a letter written by Mrs. Robert Latta in 1981 to Mrs. Nancy Russell, a founder of the Friends of the Columbia Gorge. In the letter, Mrs. Latta, a friend of the Lazarus couple, strongly advocates for recognizing somewhere at Vista House the architect of Oregon's most famous built work. Some believe they've heard the ghost of Lazarus roaming around Vista House. Maybe the ghost has that letter in mind.

WHAT'S THE SECRET?
***New Group Promotes Columbia Gorge
Arts & Culture This May***
By Lee Weinstein

Where are your favorite places to enjoy art, culture and history in the Columbia Gorge? While many think of the Gorge as an outdoor playground and also enjoy fruit and other agricultural bounty, it is also home to hundreds of artists and history and arts organizations.

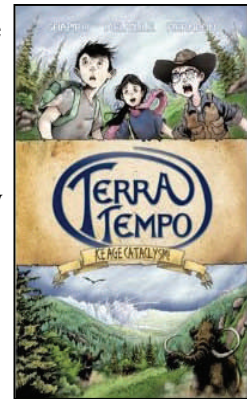
The newly formed ***Columbia Gorge Arts & Culture Alliance*** is committed to making the area as well known for arts and culture as it is for wind-surfing, so it has developed the first **Arts &**

Culture Discovery Month. Highlights of the month include the [Gorge Artists Open Studios Tour](http://columbiagorgeartsandculture.com), the weekend of May 14-15, 2011 and other events. For a complete list of this May's Gorge Arts & Culture Discovery Month events, visit <http://columbiagorgeartsandculture.com>.

A NEW BOOK FOR YOUNG READERS
By Kathleen Overton

Do you ever wonder what you can do to encourage the young people in your life to read something that is not on a computer? Especially if it is not about vampires or super heroes? If you answered yes, then there is a new book that may be just what you want. ***Terra Tempo: Ice Age Cataclysm*** is a new book designed for 9-12 year olds and is a fun read for adults - especially ones who are not familiar with the subject.

The story tells of the Ice Age Floods, also called the Bretz Flood, which came down the Columbia River Gorge at least 10,000 – 15,000 years ago. The story is about three children who, with the use of time travel, go back to the catastrophic event that carved out new landscape from Missoula to the Pacific, including changing the course of the Columbia River. Much of the geology we see today in the Gorge and the scablands in Washington is a result of this and several other similar floods.



Part of what sets this book apart is the format. It was done using a comic book format appealing to young people that is unique because of the beautiful illustrations and because it is printed on high quality paper with a sturdy binding. The well-researched book is priced at \$14.95—a good value considering the length – 140 pages– the content and the quality. The authors and publisher are local, living in the Portland area. By buying this book from the Vista House Gift Store you can expose the young people in your life to the earth's history and at the same time support Vista House.

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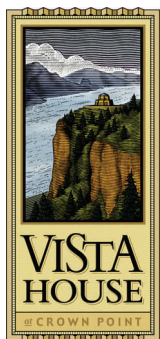
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