



---

ELGIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

# NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2026

Elgin, Oregon

## What's New?

### History of Banking

We are honoring the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our nation, and our new home in the historic U. S. Bank building, with displays and activities about the history of both U.S. and local banking and the evolution of money. Learn about Oregon Beaver coins, the Cross of Gold speech, why the number 13 is on the dollar bill, sheepskin money, the meaning of symbols on various coins, turning paper into gold, the story "Run on the Bank", and the development of Agricultural Banking.

Documents, letters and artifacts from the collection will provide local perspectives, in addition to oral presentations, treasure hunts, sleuthing, a possible bank robbery, and other hands-on activities for all ages.

### Uranium Room

We will be displaying our new uranium glass collection. Come and see the bank vault glow in the dark - if you dare!

### Noon Series - Fri & Sat

Every Friday & Saturday at noon, come watch an Oregon Historical Presentation on various topics. Can purchase bratwursts for lunch.

## Museum Opens

We will open for the 2026 season, beginning first weekend in May. Come visit us this year in our new home in the historic old US Bank Building at 8<sup>th</sup> and Alder, Elgin.

## Recent Events

### Dinner Theater

Our Dinner Theater in November was a sold-out success. The Elgin Museum Time Tellers theater group enacted the life of Charles Dickens. The accompanying roast beef dinner cooked by our volunteer staff and served by the Elgin High School business and FFA clubs, fed the 88 attendees.

### Night Before Christmas

A white mouse led families through the museum, where scenes from the Night Before Christmas poem were staged. Santa appeared at the end with a gift of real socks, filled with an orange and candy cane. The Elgin High School business and FFA clubs dressed as reindeer and elves for pictures with the children.

---



# ELGIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter Page 2

Spring/Summer 2026 Elgin, Oregon

## Grants

### Restroom Remodels

Grant funding from the Oregon Community Foundation and Roundhouse Foundation has made it possible for us to remodel our restrooms to meet ADA requirements. They will be ready for use when we open in May.

### America 250

America 250 Oregon Commission with Oregon Heritage, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and the Oregon Historical Society has provided grant funding for our History of Banking display.

We sincerely thank all our funders for their generous gifts that help the museum serve the community.

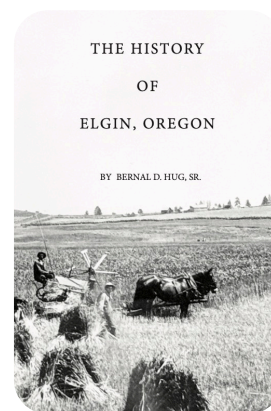
## Volunteer Corner

We always need volunteers. Come help us grow! Meet new people and serve the community.

### Acquisition Committee

The acquisition committee evaluates and inventories items in the collection and new donations. Come join us! Help us document and organize the collections, inventory items in our new database, and help store items not on display. We have opportunities for all skill sets.

## History of Elgin Book



For sale at Museum  
or online at  
[www.elginmuseum.org](http://www.elginmuseum.org)

## Contact Us

Email: [info@elginmuseum.org](mailto:info@elginmuseum.org)

Phone: 541-605-8059

Website: [www.elginmuseum.org](http://www.elginmuseum.org)

Open:

Thu, Fri, Sat

10 am - 4 pm





---

# ELGIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter Page 3

Spring/Summer 2026 Elgin, Oregon

## HISTORY OF BANKING DISPLAY 2026 Spring and Summer Season

Is the Wizard of Oz book really about a dispute over gold?

Why would a man, in a trench coat, in Elgin, have dollar bills flying from his coat?

Was there ever a "Run on the Bank" in Elgin?

When did Oregon issue its own "Beaver Coins"? Can it do that today?

Can money be printed on wood? Sheepskin?

Is the number 13 in your billfold? Does it have an unlucky meaning?

Is the coin in your hand real or counterfeit?

Can you be a spy and find the bag of money left by a robber?

## HISTORY OF BANKING PANEL Saturday, May 30, 2026 at 4:00 P.M.

Hear from people who know banking -

- Learn about fraud and counterfeit
- Owning a bank
- The job of a bank manager
- Being robbed in a bank



First State Bank of Elgin

**Come visit us and find out!**

Admission Free. Donations Welcome!

---



---

# ELGIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter Page 4

Spring/Summer 2026 Elgin, Oregon

## Ways to Donate

The Elgin Museum and Historical Society, housed in the historic U.S. Bank Building, showcases our local history through rotating displays, events, and workshops. Our volunteers give time and energy to promote local history through research, education and preservation activities. We want to become an asset to the community, by appealing to all age groups, offering unique and interesting historical perspectives using artifacts and documents in our collections, digitizing our library for genealogical research, and offering presentations, events and workshops. Your generous donations support our operating and development expenses.

Here are four ways to donate.

1. Write a check to:

Elgin Museum and Historical Society  
PO Box 358  
Elgin, OR. 97827

2. Credit/Debit Card

Online on our website  
[www.elginmuseum.org](http://www.elginmuseum.org)



3. Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) and/or Required Minimum Distribution (RMD) from an IRA. At age 70 ½ years old, a contribution from an IRA to the Elgin Museum and Historical Society is a dollar-for-dollar non-taxable event. As a charitable organization, we have set up an account with Edward Jones.

4. Stock or Mutual Funds. Donations are an allowed deduction when itemizing taxes. We have set up an account at Edward Jones for these deductions, also.

The contact person at Edward Jones:

Reva Hartenstein

541-605-0727

[reva.harenstein@edwardjones.com](mailto:reva.harenstein@edwardjones.com)

Your contributions are greatly appreciated. Thank you for supporting us!

Elgin Museum and Historical Society, Elgin, Oregon  
501 (C) (3) Non-Profit Corporation – EIN 38-4014430

---