



ELGIN MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Spring/Summer 2026

Elgin, Oregon

New Displays

History of Banking

We are honoring the 250th 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!

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 8th 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.



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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.

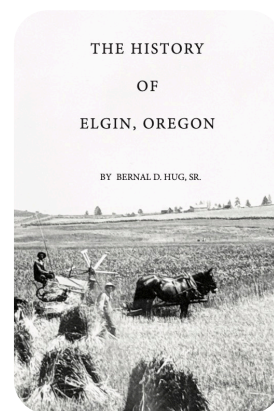
Volunteer Corner

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

Contact Us

Email: info@elginmuseum.org

Phone: 541-605-8059

Website: www.elginmuseum.org

Open:

Thu, Fri, Sat

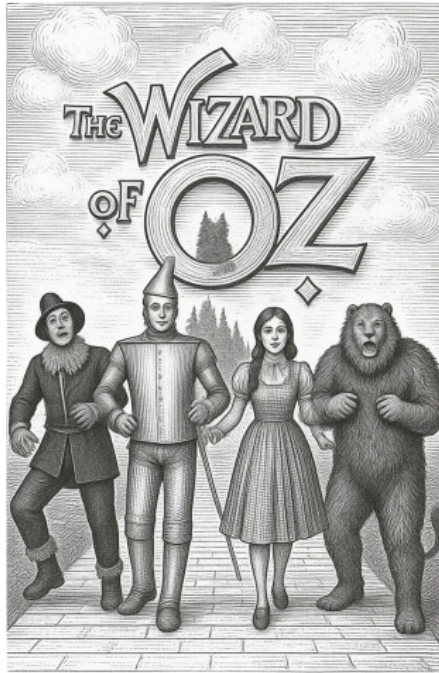
10 am - 4 pm





HISTORY CORNER

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



1939 Movie Poster

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?

When and why did people plant "Victory Gardens"?

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

Come visit us and find out!



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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



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

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
