This year’s Historic Home Tour was a great event. We appreciate all of the outstanding efforts of the Home Tour Committee. The Heritage Board is also very grateful for all the home owners, sponsors and volunteers who made the event possible.

Next up, please join us for the 14th Annual Oswego Heritage Council Collector Car and Classic Boat Show

Pre-Show events will be held with the arrival of cruise boats at the Foothills docks on the Willamette on Saturday August 17, after 10:00 am.

Also, on Saturday, at 3:00 pm, our fourth annual water ski spectacular will be part of the Pre-Show events. The water ski spectacular will start with the Polka Dot Express, six skiers, all on classic wood skis, carrying flags that spell out OSWEGO. Each skier, in vintage-look polka dot swim suits, will circle Lakewood Bay. Other events will include slalom skiing, skiing on shoes, and a disk. Our Mayor has agreed to ski for the parade. At 4:00 pm, the Classic Boat Parade will begin. The parade of boats will circle the lake.

Sunday, August 18, from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm. Enjoy 250+ collector cars and on-land classic boats at George Rogers Park, classic boats also on the Lake at the Lake Oswego Corporation Docks and classic cruisers, including PT658, at the Foothills Park Docks. A free shuttle, provided by First Student, Inc., will run continuously throughout the Show to all three venues. Admission to all three venues is also free to both car and boat owners and spectators.

Spectators will be able to get a close-up view of spectacular cars and boats and cruise boats that are members of the Columbia Willamette Chapter of the Antique and Classic Boat Society, a sponsor of the Show.

Pancakes and hamburgers will be served by the Lake Oswego Lions Club at George Rogers Park. For car drivers there will be Car Hops to take your orders. The Car Hops are members of Lakeridge and LO Rally teams.
Charles “Peanuts” Didzun was the son of pioneers Matthew Didzun and Elizabeth Stockman, German and Canadian immigrants who came to Oswego in 1885. The senior Didzun worked as a core maker/toolmaker at the Oswego iron foundry and later pipe works, as well as carrying mail by horse and cart to Stafford, Canby and Wilsonville. At the age of about 16 Charles left school (“ran away” in his own words) and began working at the Oswego Pipe Works in 1909. He worked in the foundry blacksmith shop swinging a sixteen-pound sledgehammer all day behind an anvil. “I got so tired I thought I’d never be able to get home.” Charles also worked as a hay rope maker at the Oswego pipe foundry; his ropes were used by his father on core barrels for making pipe. Self taught, he was paid 35 cents a spool for his rope. At the time, he thought he was “the only rope maker west of Pennsylvania.”

Charles was a player on early Oswego baseball teams during the teens, and his brother Herman, who was a year older, played on teams in the very early 1900’s. Didzun also served as Oswego’s fifth marshal in 1920-21. Years later, Charles Didzun told members of the Oswego Junior Historical Society why his term of office was so brief. After he locked up a stray cow in the pound, where it had to stay until her owner paid a fine, a friend warned Charles that the owner of the cow was looking for him with a club, vowing to kill him. In response, Marshal Didzun turned in his badge to the city council, saying his life was worth more than $15 a month.

Didzun had the first gas pump and garage in town, and he also sold Model T Fords. Didzun's business was located at the corner of State and B Streets where the building still stands and is still used as a gas station.

Charles Didzun apparently held many jobs over the years. The 1910 U.S. Census records him as 17 years old and employed as a blacksmith which coincides with his work at the Oswego Pipe Works. A 1916 Portland directory shows him as a machinist working at the Pacific Machine & Brass Works, 454 Hawthorne, Portland, while residing in Oswego.

His WWI draft card of June 5, 1917 states he was employed as an automobile mechanic by the Pacific Highway, Oregon City, Oregon. A WWI era service board that stood in Oswego during the war years includes his name; the 1930 U.S. census also notes he is a WWI veteran. The 1920 census shows him as a mechanic at a garage, and the 1930 census lists him as a service man at his own garage along with his father, Mat. 1929 and 1930 Portland directories have him working at the Oswego Garage and residing in Oswego. His 1942 WWII draft card states he was employed by the U.S. Post Office in Oswego.

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Didzun service station at State and B, Oswego. Year unknown.
Born in Argyle, Minnesota, Jesse Ralph Coon was the son of James and Mary Coon who moved to Oswego, Oregon in 1894. An 1885 Minnesota census shows Jesse having four brothers and two sisters at that time. The 1900 U. S. Census includes Jesse, his father James, his mother Mary, brothers Archibald and James, and a sister Ruth.

At the age of 20, Jesse became the first rural mail carrier for the Oswego Post Office in 1905. He drove a horse-drawn cart to deliver mail and continued to do so until 1910 when Lester Clinefelter took over his job. The 1910 U.S. Census shows Jesse as not employed. It was in that year that his family moved to Portland where his father had a job at a coal and ice company.

A 1912 Portland directory lists Jesse as a teamster working for the Liberty Coal & Ice Company on SE 3rd, in Portland, most probably the same place of employment as his father. A Sunday Oregonian ad for November 24, 1912 has Liberty Coal & Ice at 21 E. 3rd, Portland. Portland directories for a number of years from 1913 through 1931 have Jesse working for the same company as a teamster, driver, and, beginning in 1924, as a salesman. His 1918 WWI draft card lists him as an iceman with Liberty, the 1930 and 1940 U.S. Censuses have essentially the same, and his 1942 WWII draft card includes Liberty Fuel and Ice as his employer. Different is the 1920 census which shows him as a laborer at a shipyard.

Jesse R. Coon married Lois E. Copley on June 10, 1921 and they lived on East Everette in Portland into the 1930’s before moving to Northeast 57th sometime before 1940. Lois Coon continued to reside at that address until at least 1953 after Jesse’s death on August 6, 1945. Jesse R. Coon, his wife Lois, and nine other members of the Coon family are buried in the Oswego Pioneer Cemetery within Blocks 6 and 9.
This year’s Historic Home Tour was the result of the dedicated efforts of many individuals. In addition to our generous sponsors named below, we would like to extend a special note of thanks to our more than 70 home docent volunteers. Thank you sponsors, volunteers, home owners, and our wonderful Home Tour Committee.