

# Press Release

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THE OREGON ENCYCLOPEDIA



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*A partnership of Portland State University, the Oregon Historical Society, and The Oregon Council of Teachers of English*

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## **“The Historic Columbia River Highway: A Study of its History, Decline, and Preservation.” (Film)**

The Oregon Encyclopedia (The OE) continues its monthly series of History Nights at McMenamins pubs. At each History Night, The OE will look back at the seminal people and events that have shaped our communities. Visit [www.oregonencyclopedia.org](http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org) for History Night locations and more details.

### **“The Historic Columbia River Highway: A Study of its History, Decline, and Preservation.” (Film)**

**Presented by Robert Hadlow, Dave Sell, and George Fekaris**

**Tuesday, October 25, 2011**

**6:30 pm**

**McMenamins Edgefield, 2126 SW Halsey St., Troutdale, Ore.**

**Free and open to the public**

When the Columbia River Highway was completed in 1922, it became the first modern highway in the Pacific Northwest and the first scenic highway in the United States. Thanks to the efforts of businessman Samuel Hill and architect Samuel C. Lancaster, the highway was an engineering marvel, enhanced by the graceful masonry and bridge construction Lancaster added to his design. Beginning in the 1930s, however, increased traffic forced a new route along the Columbia, bypassing much of the original highway and leaving much of it to fall into disrepair. An effort to restore the old highway and its spectacular views of the Gorge began in the 1980s, and it was named a National Historic Landmark in 2000. Today, the highway is the focus of a comprehensive preservation program by the Oregon Department of Transportation. Robert Hadlow, Senior Historian for ODOT, and Dave Sell and George Fekaris, transportation planners for the Federal Highway Administration, will tell the story of the highway and outline the future of this historic roadway.

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The OE is an online resource for information on the state’s significant people, places, events, institutions, and biota. Over 800 entries and essays have been published online and new entries are added every day. For more information visit [www.oregonencyclopedia.org](http://www.oregonencyclopedia.org).

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