

PIONEER TALKING POINTS

GENERAL:

- Statue officially named “The Oregon Pioneer,” nicknamed “Gold Man.” (Golden Pioneer is an incorrect name).
- Sculpted by Ulrich Ellerhusen, in hollow bronze, covered in gold leaf.
- The Gold Man does not represent a single person but is rather a representation of the “pioneering spirit” of the 400,000 people who made the 5-month, 2000-mile-long journey across the Oregon Trail.
- Axe in his hand, wagon cover over his shoulder: tools used on the Oregon Trail
- “Pioneering” does not mean first: Oregon is home to nine federally recognized tribes, and many bands of indigenous peoples, who have been here since time immemorial.

CONSTRUCTION AND GILDING:

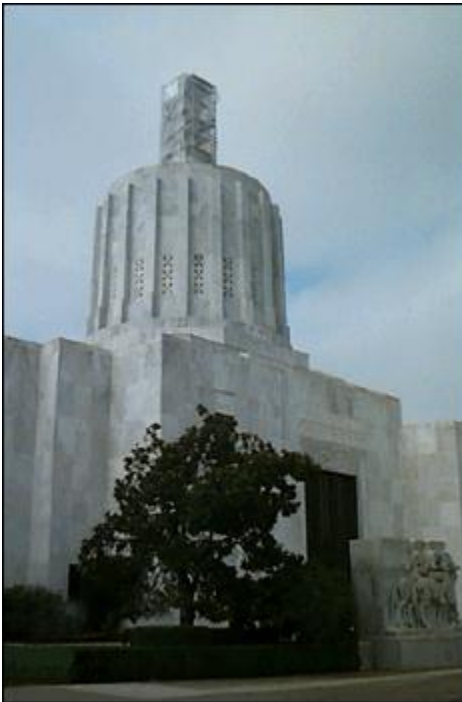
- Ulrich Ellerhusen’s studio in NJ – Gold man needed to take a long trip across continent not unlike the pioneers.
- Transported New York to Oregon by steamship via the Panama Canal, then to the Capitol on the back of a flatbed truck.
 - It took a group of men three days, using a rope and pulley system, to raise the statue to the top of the Capitol. Gilded in place atop Capitol.
- Gilded with 2440 sheets of gold leaf, sealed in lacquer.
- Gold leaves are very thin squares gold (1,200 times thinner than paper).
 - Total gold only about 11.5 ounces (326 grams)
 - Small enough to fit into the palm of your hand.
- Oregon Pioneer Statue must be regilded every 20-30 years.

STATS:

- **Height:** The total height of the statue is 23 feet (7 meters).
 - A 6-foot human, standing next to the Oregon Pioneer, would barely reach the top of his knee!
 - The statue sits on top of an approximately 20-foot pedestal (doubling its height).
 - The base of the statue is 140 feet (42.67 meters) above the ground,
 - Top of the statue is 173.4 feet above the ground.
- **Weight:** 8 ½ tons. That’s 17,000 lbs (7,711kgs).
 - Equivalent of up to four elephants!

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE:

- The Capitol is the “People’s House,” and we are its stewards! In 1984 a group of Oregon school children led a campaign to collect spare change that raised over \$46,000 to re-gild the Oregon Pioneer.



Cocoon Protects Scaffolding



Plastic Cocoon Close-up



Scaffolding Has Staircase

2000



Gilder Applies Gold Leaf



Pioneer prior to re-gilding



Soft Gilding Brush

Gold Leaf in Booklets

