



CCMA Museum Association



2015 Spring Newsletter

Book Project

Our pictorial book, *Images of America: St. Helens*, was turned in to the publisher for final editing and has been sent to the printer. The anticipated publication date is June 2015, and may be pre-ordered on this site:

<http://www.colcomuseum.org/>

Public awareness of the book project encouraged descendants of local families who came here in the 1800s through most of the 1900s to share their histories, and as a result we have much more knowledge about those who helped develop the town's cultural, educational, and economic background. Visitors with boxes of manuscripts, diaries, letters, photos, artifacts, and inquiries hastened the reopening of dusty archives and granted all of us at the CCMA with refresher courses in local history.



St. Helens, 4 July 1915. A holiday celebration is well attended. The old courthouse steps provide a vantage for viewing the St. Helens Band in the plaza below. Note the old Columbia Theatre with its vertical sign in the background on the left.

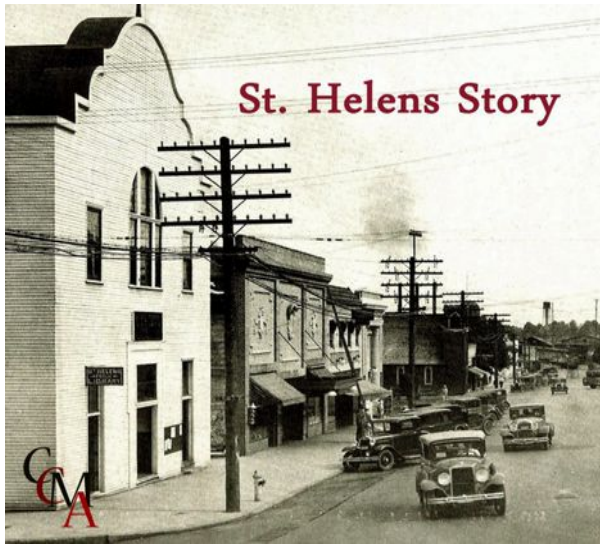
Photos that were not donated were scanned and have become part of the museum's digitized collection. Several maps were found that the CCMA did not have, including 1911 and 1921 maps of downtown St Helens.

New Open Hours

As volunteer stewards of a non-profit museum organization, our principal purpose is the caretaking, display, and sharing of the museum collection and its considerable body of knowledge about Columbia County's past. In that regard, and thanks to new volunteer Karen Winterfeld, we are pleased to announce that the museum is now open **two days a week, on Wednesdays and Thursdays from noon to 4pm.**

Columbia County Historical Society (CCHS)

The old historical society (1949-2014) terminated without a board or membership. As a brief reminder, the CCMA is in effect a court-mandated spinoff of the old society. Since we have reunited both the CCMA and CCHS museum collections, we thought it appropriate to ask the state if we could use "Columbia County Historical Society" as an **assumed business name**. This is a standard procedure, and our request was granted. This means that both names, the Columbia County Museum Association and the Columbia County Historical Society, are interchangeable. The old society was well respected during its 60 years, and its name is back where it belongs.



In the early 1930's, itinerant film maker Mike Blache' traveled around the Northwest visiting small communities where he filmed short movies that focused primarily on schools and businesses. The footage was spliced together in a process that added music and an introduction. Delivered in forceful and convincing tones, the theme was community boosterism with an emphasis on loyalty to local businesses. Appropriately, our surviving Blache' film is entitled "Buy at Home Campaign: St. Helens Oregon." The movie was screened at the Columbia Theatre, and people paid to see family, friends, and themselves on the big screen—home movies were very rare at the time. Today, the movie has local historical significance in its depiction of 1930s St. Helens.

A great deal of credit for the survival of this movie goes to St. Helens resident Fred Bond. Fred had a strong interest in film making, and in the early 1950's he shot footage of many schools and businesses in and around the city, which he later donated to the Oregon Historical Society.

After retirement from Midway Electric, which he co-owned, Fred began to focus on film preservation. Among his projects was the survival of the original Blache' film. With help from the Oregon Historical Society, he transferred the original footage to a more stable film stock by building a DeVry 35mm to 16mm optical printer. We appreciate the help of society staff in making a digital version available through the Columbia County Museum Association.

Centennial celebrations this year

The CCMA is supporting the St. Helens Public Library and The Columbia County Fair as they prepare to recognize 100 years of activity. We are looking through our collection for pictures and artifacts they may wish to use in their commemoration of this significant milestone. If you have any mementos or pictures you would like to share with them, please contact us.

Warren's Swedish Community

In the years 1920-1922, Warren resident C.J. Larson embarked on an extensive sixteen-country tour with two young ladies—his daughter and her friend. After the trio returned, C.J. finished writing about their itinerary, and his story was subsequently published in book form in 1927. Originally written in Swedish, the book is entitled *Genom sexton länder (Through Sixteen Countries)*, and has recently been translated into English by the Swedes to Oregon Society. The CCMA has been invited to help with the project as it progresses toward publication.

The Old Courthouse Clock

As some of you may know, the old courthouse clock has undergone extensive restoration. Some work remains; however, as this video explains, the clock is now in working condition:

<https://vimeo.com/100557143>

The clock's original 1911 north-glass face and wooden hands are in care of the CCMA, and we are arranging for them to be mounted on a wall in the old courthouse.

Membership

We hope that you have renewed your membership in the CCMA for 2015. Membership renewals are due each Jan. 1. If your initial membership date was after Aug. 31, then your initial membership continues through the following year. If you joined on or before Aug. 31, your initial membership ends the same year on Dec. 31. The dates are arranged so that successive membership renewals will conform to a calendar year.

The next biannual will be mailed this summer. We have new authors and the summer issue looks to have a wide range of content.

Your support means a lot to volunteers of the museum association. The ability to purchase and maintain proper equipment and archival material is integral to the preservation of Columbia County's history. We invite you to visit and see the improvements we have made.

It is just \$15 to renew your annual membership or to give a membership as a gift to a friend or family member. Donations are always welcome as well, and are tax deductible. A renewal form is attached, or you can [renew and pay on our website](http://www.colcomuseum.org).

CCMA, P.O. Box 172, Columbia City, OR 97018
Website: www.colcomuseum.org
A registered nonprofit

CCMA Membership Application

You may cut out this application and mail to the above address. Your membership helps support the CCMA, and two History journals will be mailed to you per year. You can also join while visiting the museum, which is open on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from noon to 4 in the old courthouse, St. Helens. See website for more detailed information.

Name _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Email address (for occasional news only) _____

First year: \$20

Renewal: \$15