



Spring 2014 Newsletter

The Columbia County Museum Association (CCMA) has had a busy start to the New Year. We have received many new membership applications as well as renewals. Our goal is to keep growing, to expand our involvement in the community, and to motivate interest in the history of Columbia County.

You may recall that in 2006 the museum association was created by an agreement with the Historical Society of Columbia County (HSCC) in which each organization retained a share of the society's collections. The museum association also received managerial control of the old courthouse museum. The circumstances leading up to and after the partition of property has the twists and turns of a Gordian Knot, and a newsletter is not the proper forum by which to give the details a proper examination. Suffice it to say that an amicable agreement has been reached wherein all properties pursuant to the original partition have now been reunited with CCMA collections at the old courthouse museum. Currently, our limited number of volunteers are busy sorting

documents and preparing artifacts for display that have not seen the light of day for several years.



As you can see in the photo below, we could use help sorting and indexing documents, photos, and artifacts. If you would like to volunteer, contact us at museum@colcomuseum.org or call 971-225-3971.



The CCMA research library is open during museum hours on Wednesdays from noon to four. The library collection has been substantially improved by the return of material, which includes old maps, books, letters, manuscripts, computer data files, and newspapers, as well as many old photos. We also have complete 22 volume sets of our old County History annuals (1963-1980) available for sale.



November 2013, CCMA hosted an open house for county and city personnel. Many of them had not yet had a chance to visit the museum. The turnout was great, and all went well except for a false fire alarm that sent everyone outside until the OK was given and the alarm was finally turned off.

Les Watters and Joanne Pellham developed a photo presentation on the history of St. Helens and presented it to the St Helens Rotary Club in February. CCMA plans to develop additional programs about the history of Columbia County. There are also photos and several short videos you may find interesting on the CCMA website.

Two of our most dedicated volunteers, Lona Pierce, and Clarence (Inkie) Aulenbacher, have resigned from the board of directors, but retain their memberships and will continue to volunteer as time and opportunity allow. The Board appointed Curator

Les Watters, and David T. Sprau to complete Lona and Inkie's terms.

Dave Sprau is a long-time Columbia County resident whose early interest in railroads helped him earn a job as a telegrapher for the Northern Pacific Railway at the tender age of 16. From that position he graduated into full-time dispatching, working most of his career for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway (BNSF). Along the way Dave worked as a chief dispatcher and also served in union chairmanships, including a stint as a General Chairman for the American Train Dispatchers Association. He left BNSF in 1997 to take a job as superintendent of a short line road in Tacoma, a position he held until retirement. Dave has written several articles on railroad history, and co-authored a book about timetable and train order operations entitled, *19 East, Copy Three*. His knowledge of railroads dovetails with CCMA board member Dave Parsons' knowledge about steam engines and logging, and provides the CCMA with a hard-to-beat combination of resources for sharing the histories of two of Columbia County's most economically important industries—railroads and timber.

Maybe you noticed the new plaque beside the Warrior Rock Bell—located in front of the courthouse annex describing its historical significance. This bell was first installed at Cape Disappointment in 1856, and thus became the first fog bell in the Pacific Northwest. With financial help from the county, CCMA provided the history

and arranged its installation in February.

Have you visited the courthouse museum lately? As we rearrange the research library and entry room, it sometimes gets a little cluttered, but the museum is still open every Wednesday afternoon. Our board meetings are held on the third Wednesday of most months in the courthouse museum. Members and visitors are welcome and one of us is always ready to assist you.



Warrior Rock Bell
and recently
installed plaque

The Museum Association welcomes donations that relate to county history: photos, videos, artifacts, newspapers, scrapbooks, diaries, business records, natural history specimens, or other items that help tell the story of our county.



Open Wednesdays
12:00 to 4:00 PM



Membership

Date _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

E-mail address: _____

Newsletter via:

Email

Mail

New \$ 20

Renewal \$ 15

*Donation _____

Total: _____

If you would like to add a tax deductible donation with your membership dues, we will provide you with a written acknowledgment.

Enclose your check with this form and mail to:

CCMA
PO Box 172
Columbia City, Oregon 97018

To join and pay online:

www.colcomuseum.org



*Contributions above the membership fee may be tax-deductible as a charitable donation. Columbia County Museum Association is a registered 501(c)(3) tax exempt heritage organization. Our Tax ID Number is 06-1834021.