Columbia County Museum Association

230 Strand Street
St. Helens, Oregon

511 East Bridge Street
Vernonia, Oregon

Newsletter   Spring 2013

CCMA volunteers have been busy during the winter months!

Historic journals (right) will now be published twice a year. The first was mailed to CCMA members in January 2013. They will be similar to historic county booklets that were published annually in the 1970s-'80s. Journals will be sent to all dues-paying members of CCMA, and sold in the museums for $5 each. Duke Smith and Debra Brimacombe are co-editors, although articles will be by a variety of contributors.

The **CCMA Website** made its debut on the Internet on February 23, 2013! The address:

www.colcomuseum.org

It has numerous features: news and upcoming events, research resources, links, historic videos & photos, museum hours, and board member info. You can also contact us with questions. Les Watters designed the website for the CCMA and crafted the new logo you see at the top of this newsletter. You will also be able to **join the CCMA** via the website! Check it out!

Who are we?

Good question. How many millions of unlabeled photos are tossed out by descendants because they haven't got a clue who anyone is in the album? Which one of these soldiers is great-grandpa? What lake is this? Whose dog? Where was this farm? We all intend to sit down with mom to have her help label old photos, but never get around to it. Before you know it, it's too late and much family history is lost. Or, a photo has scrawled on the back, "me." That certainly is a big help if it's from generations gone by!

The photo above is from the courthouse museum collection. Looks like newlyweds from the late 1800s. The cardboard frame says the photo studio is in Ohio. Maybe they moved to St. Helens and raised a big family. Maybe their adult children moved to a farm in Deer Island. We don't know. It has little value because the family never labeled it. No story to go with this young couple! The museums seek copies of old labeled photos relevant to the county.

What about the photos you've taken recently? Most are probably stored on your computer. Not all are worth archiving, but at least a few photos of your relatives, home, big-game hunt or pet should be identified with name, date, and place. Print out hard copies and label them for safekeeping. And do the reverse with old photos: scan them digitally. Mix technologies in order to share and secure your photos. And don't forget to label!

A little history……..

Bounties as a method to control wild predators were routine back when farms and livestock were scattered all over the county. The earliest records found in the courthouse on bounty payments begin in 1909. Bobcats were plentiful in the forests and easy to trap, so they outnumbered all other animals in scalps or feet turned into the county, for a $2 payment. Coyotes were also frequently trapped or shot: female coyote warrants were $4 and male, $3. The last bounty paid for a wolf in the county was in 1921, for $2.50, and the last lynx (rarely recorded) was from 1935. Mr. Birkenfeld earned $10 each for a litter of cougar cubs, in 1935. Other well-known signatures out of the bounty records include names such as Fullerton, Heimuller, Wickstrom, Dahlgren, Berg, and Pringle. Perhaps the oddest bounties paid were for mole pelts, 10 cents each from 1917 to 1920. During that time bounty hunters concentrated on moles, giving other animals a break. Once mole bounties were stopped, attention again turned to bobcats and coyotes. The county stopped paying bounties in 1937.

Mailing address: CCMA, PO Box 172, Columbia City, OR 97018