

September 2016

Page 1

First Thursday Programs

Page 2

*Longview Fibre Book
Soon to be in Print*

Page 3

From the Collections

Page 4

*Cowlitz Encounter
Exhibit Progress*

*Best of Town and
Country at the
Cowlitz County Fair*

Annual Fund Drive

Page 5

*Museum's Special
Collections*

Page 6

*Traveling Trunk
Programs a Huge
Success*

Page 7

*Gift Membership
Form*

Page 8

Calendar of Events

First Thursday Programs

September 1

The Cowlitz Indian Tribe's Cultural History of Mount St. Helens / Lawetlat'la.

Learn about the Indian mythology surrounding the mountain and it's eruptive history; the lifeways, material culture and spirituality

of the Cowlitz People in the pre-contact era, and the successful 2013 listing of Lawetlat'la on the National Register of Historic Places as a traditional cultural property. Presenter Nathan Reynolds has been employed as an ecologist for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe since 2005. He studies prehistoric and historic interactions between humans, the physical landscape and natural resources in southwest Washington State.



Mt St Helens, 1847 by Paul Kane

October 6

Superhero America: The Comic-Book Character as Historical Lens. Since the debut of *Superman* in 1938, the American superhero has been a regular part of our pop culture landscape. In an interactive multimedia presentation, journalist and comic book historian, T. Andrew Wahl, will explore how historical events and shifting social mores can be seen in the evolution of characters from *Wonder Woman* to *Spider-Man*. Using audience members' memories as a springboard, this conversation connects comic book superheroes (and the occasional villain!) to historical topics including war, the advancement of civil rights, and the societal impacts of technology. Wahl's presentation is provided by Humanities Washington.

humanities
WASHINGTON

h
w

November 3

For the past three years, retired Kelso teacher and historian John Simpson has been researching a collection of Civil War letters that were discovered in Kelso. In two previous popular programs he has reported what he has learned about the four men in the letters. "A Trunkful of Letters, Part III" should be equally as interesting. Come and hear what he has recently discovered.

Historical Society Officers

Maryanne Wainwright
President

Mike Dugaw
Vice-President

Karen Pickett
Secretary

Bud Cockrell
Treasurer

Sam Wardle
Past-President

Board of Directors

Don Armstrong

Don Fuller

Richard Green

Jonell Kenagy

Frank King

Sue Maxey

Mike Perry

Darren Ullmann

Kris McElroy Weber

Museum Staff

Dave Freece
Museum Director

Jim Elliott
Office Manager

Bill Watson
Collections Curator

Danielle Robbins
*Education &
Public Programs Coordinator*

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday
10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Phone (360) 577-3119

E-mail

freeced@co.cowlitz.wa.us

elliottj@co.cowlitz.wa.us

watsonb@co.cowlitz.wa.us

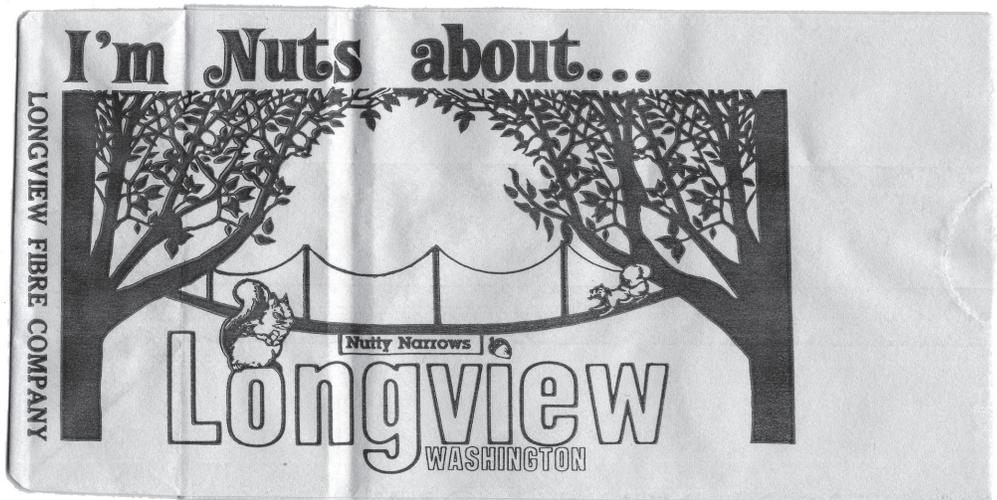
robbinsd@co.cowlitz.wa.us

Website

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/museum

Longview Fibre Book Soon to be in Print

Since 2011 the museum has been working with The Wollenberg Foundation on a project to preserve and make available the history of Longview Fibre. Seattle author David Wilma was hired to write the story of Longview Fibre from its beginnings in Longview in 1926 up to its sale in 2007. Titled, "Whistles: The Story of Longview Fibre Company," the manuscript is currently in the hands of Book Publishing Network. Once the index is completed, a final galley will be reviewed, approved and sent to be printed. Museum Director David Freece said he was pleased that the Longview Fibre book is coming out. "It's an engaging story and I think everyone who reads it will learn something about the company they did not know. We're very pleased to work with The Wollenberg Foundation on this project." Watch for publicity about the book's availability.



This c. 1983 bag made by Longview Fibre is one of the samples of company products acquired by the museum. 2016.4.4

The perfect idea for birthdays or other special gifts

GIFT MEMBERSHIPS

Giving a membership to the Cowlitz County Historical Society often makes the perfect gift. Members receive the Historical Quarterly throughout the year along with the newsletter, which will keep them up to date on events. It's an enriching gift that continues all year! A Gift Membership Order Form is included in this newsletter.



From the Collections

Such a busy year it has been so far! We are preparing for the new “Cowlitz Encounters” exhibit while also wading through a mountain of material to catalog, most of it new to us, but some of it from old exhibits that we just hadn’t gotten around to yet.

Among the new acquisitions are several interesting items related to this area just prior to and during World War II. In April, we received a notebook with Yasui family photographs in Longview’s “Japanese Camp” during the 1930s. Most of the Japanese who lived there worked for Long-Bell, which was right next to the camp. The Yasui family children, Yoshio, Eiki, and Minnie, attended Longview schools, with Yoshio graduating from R. A. Long High School in 1939, and Eiki graduating in 1941. Later that year, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the entire population of the camp was removed to internment camps in California.

In June, we got a trunk full of items related to the Kinch and Bertz families of the Ostrander area.

Among the many items in the collection are two brochures from the Kaiser shipyards in Vancouver and Portland during World War II, as well as a January 1945 letter from Kaiser, laying off Mrs. Anna Kinch from her stockroom job, because the company found a man to do the work.

Finally, just this month, the museum acquired a group of photographs taken by and of Army Military Police stationed in Longview during World War II, to guard the Longview-Rainier Bridge and the Port of Longview. There are pictures of the barracks, some of the soldiers (identified), and several photos of the MPs and the Washington State Guard marching in the 1943 Flag Day parade.

We thank all those who have donated items to preserve our history. If you have an item which could help us tell the stories of Cowlitz County, please contact us.



In this May 1933 photograph of a 4th grade class at St Helens Elementary in Longview are Eiki Yasui (front row, 6th from left) and Toru Hamaguchi (back row 5th from left). The donor of the photo collection is Kay Kilbourn (middle row, 7th from left) CCHM #2016.35.3

Cowlitz Encounter Exhibit Progress

Thanks to the work of museum staff and volunteers the main gallery looks wonderful: New walls freshly painted with vibrant colors and new carpet replacing some that had been there 40 years. All of this is made more visible thanks to new LED lights that are bright and crisp as well as energy efficient. Our next steps are:

- The large exhibit cases need to be assembled and platforms constructed for them.
- Historic films will be edited and four television monitors mounted on the exhibit walls.
- Final editing of the cabin theater audio will be completed and then synchronized with lighting.
- Photographs, maps, titles and text labels – more than 100! – are being produced and will be installed.

- A vendor has been selected for our touch table interactive and a contract is being negotiated. Photographs, audio and video files are being prepared for inclusion in what we think will be a popular feature of the new exhibit.

Although we are not quite ready to put an opening date on the calendar, we are looking forward to presenting this new exhibit to the community. Thanks to the 175 contributors that provided the funds for the exhibit as well as those who have volunteered their expertise to help make it a reality. Cowlitz County Commissioner Mike Karnofski has stopped in the museum periodically to see the progress. He stated recently how much he appreciated everyone who has worked on the exhibit and “that it will add to the Quality of Place for Cowlitz County making it a place where people want to visit and live.”

Best of Town and Country at the Cowlitz County Fair

When you think of the best of town, what comes to mind? Is it shopping malls and theaters? Or is it something a little more unique, something like smelt queens, strawberry festivals, Rolleos, Planter’s Days, and women’s clubs? How about best of country? Farm animals and fields are certainly a part of it, but here in Cowlitz County we have so much more to offer. This was the theme of this year’s Cowlitz County Fair. From July 27 to July 30 over 1,600 people joined us at the Bush Family log cabin to celebrate the best of Cowlitz County’s towns and country.

The highlight this year was the kid’s pie-eating contest. Adena’s Delights Bakery in Longview sponsored the event by providing cupcakes for the 6-8 year old group, berry tarts for the 9-11 year old group, and apple and berry half-pies for the 12-16 year old group. It was delicious, messy fun for everyone, participant and viewer alike! Mary Jo Grochow churned butter Thursday morning and the Lower Columbia Woodcarvers joined us at the cabin on Friday and Saturday demonstrated their incredible skills. Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the log cabin to help make this year a memorable one.

Annual Fund Drive

A primary source of support for the museum’s annual operating budget is our Annual Fund Drive which kicks-off in September. Contributions are used for collection care, office supplies and to present educational and public programs. The board of directors has set a goal \$28,000 for 2016. Information will be mailed out. Thank you for your past support and please be generous again this year.



Museum's Special Collections

"Oh, look at this one! It's beautiful!" This was recently heard repeatedly at the museum when the Three Rivers Doll Club came to view our doll collection. "They are all miniature works of art," says club president Nancy Arnett. "They really connect you to history, to the society at the time they were made," adds club member Karen Boehm. It's not hard to tell that these women are passionate about the treasured toy and beloved icon. Their faces light up every time a new box is opened and they carefully hold up the dolls inside. The club found out about the museum's doll collection through Nancy. In 2014 she came to the museum wanting to know if we had any dolls. She was thrilled to find out that

we had a number of them but disappointed to learn that we had not yet photographed them for our computer cataloging program. Determined to do something to help make the collection more accessible for visitors, Nancy volunteered to photograph the doll collection and wrote an article for our June 2015 issue of the quarterly about the collection. When Nancy found out about the doll club and joined, she told the other members about the collection. The club is over 25 years old, but the members had no idea that such a treasure was at the museum. "I care so much about dolls just because they are so cute and lovable and they have been a part of my whole life. They make

me think of my mother," says Marian Griffith who made dolls before joining the doll club. "I like the dolls from my childhood the best," adds Cindy Parson, another longtime member of the club. Being able to see so many different dolls here at the museum, from unique handmade ones to historically significant German manufactured ones, was rewarding for these life-long lovers of dolls. The dolls are just one of a number of collections here at the museum which can be called "special interests". From duck decoys to ceramic shoes, if you have a special interest, don't overlook us. You may find yourself just as delighted as the Three Rivers Doll Club.

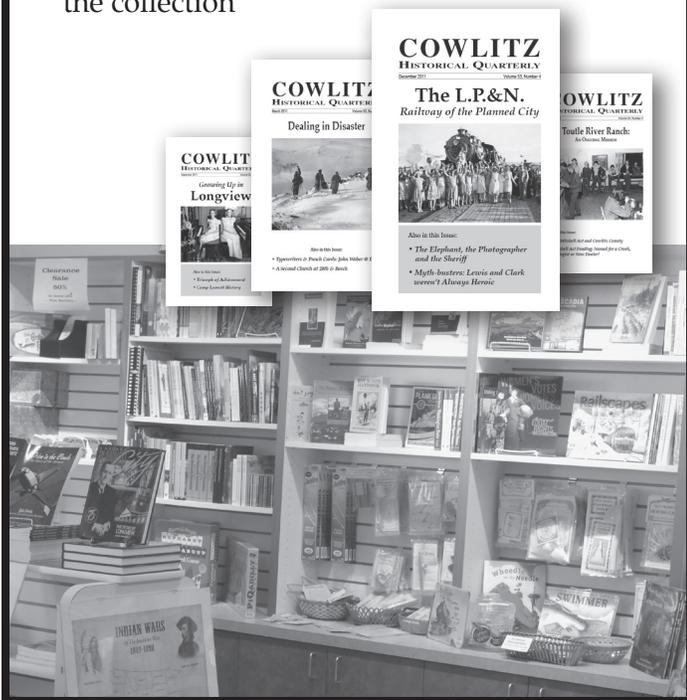
Membership Benefits

Members take pride in the knowledge that they are the key to the museum's ongoing mission of collecting, preserving, and interpreting our history.



Other membership benefits include:

- Subscription to the *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly*
- Receive the Society's Newsletters
- 10% discount on most items in our Museum Store
- 20% discount on custom printed photos from the collection



Traveling Trunk Programs a Huge Success



This school year museum staff presented an outstanding seventy-six Traveling Trunks to eight schools reaching 1st through 8th graders. Here's what teachers and students had to say about it:

Teachers have shared that these programs are "So much fun!!!" and "I loved how the presentation was engaging to the kids. This was applicable to their lives! You could see their excitement!" They appreciate these programs because they have "Such wonderful information that helps link us to where we live and feel thankful for people who came before us." They also feel that "Danielle's excitement about the content gets my students excited about social studies" and that "I appreciate how stories are told in a manner that all students can relate." Perhaps one of the highest compliments we have received was, "Simply to state- it was an excellent program. – Structured, organized, interesting, and educational."

Students also appreciate these programs. One student commented that, "I learned more from Miss Danielle than from the textbook" and another that, "I thought she did a really good job. I thought it was cool how she dressed like them." Students not only enjoy the programs, but learn a lot from them as well. A favorite response is always, "Wow, life was hard back then!" Perhaps the most enlightening moment was when one second grader asked, "When did everything stop being black & white?" referring to the fact that none of the pictures were in color. This led to a discussion about how life **was** in color, even in the olden-days, but that cameras uses to be "color blind". With learning moments like these, the only ones enjoying the presentations more than the students and teachers are the presenters from the museum. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered during one of our many Kids' Programs this year!

GIFT MEMBERSHIP FORM

Give a gift membership to the **COWLITZ COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY!**

The Cowlitz County Historical Society was founded in 1949 to discover, preserve, and interpret the history of Cowlitz County and Southwest Washington for the public's education and enjoyment.

THE RECIPIENT OF YOUR GIFT will receive the *Cowlitz Historical Quarterly* and/or historical society newsletters and invitations to special Museum events, as well as a 10% discount on most items sold in the Museum store. Our gift members are also eligible for a discounted membership in the Washington State Historical Society.

A membership in the Cowlitz County Historical Society makes a great gift! If you would like to buy a membership for a friend or family member, please fill in the information below.

YES, I/we would like to support the Cowlitz County Historical Society by becoming a member!

Enclosed is \$_____ for the membership category indicated below. (Please check one box)

The following include both Quarterly & Newsletter:

- Individual Membership..... \$35
- Family Membership \$40
- Contributing Membership \$75
- Business/Benefactor Membership.....\$150 - \$499
- Sponsor Membership\$500 - \$999
- Life Membership..... \$1,500 & above

The following are subscriptions to either the Newsletter or the Quarterly:

- Newsletter Subscription\$20
- Cowlitz Historical Quarterly Library Subscription.....\$30

Your Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Gift Member's Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

When it is time to renew this gift membership, would you like the renewal notice sent to: Yourself Your Gift Member

Check enclosed Visa/Mastercard Visa/MC # _____

Amount Enclosed \$_____ Exp. Date _____ Signature _____

Please make checks payable to: *Cowlitz County Historical Society • 405 Allen Street • Kelso WA 98626*

calendar

Calendar of Events – Fall/Winter 2016

September 1st at 7pm First Thursday:
“Lawetlat’la: The Cowlitz Tribe’s Mount St.
Helens.”

October 6th at 7pm First Thursday:
“Superhero America: The Comic-Book
Character as Historical Lens.”

November 3rd at 7pm First Thursday: “A
Trunkful of Letters, Part III.”

December 3rd from 10am to 4pm: “Winter
Festival all day open house for family fun!”

Like Us On Facebook!

**COWLITZ COUNTY
HISTORICAL
museum**
405 ALLEN STREET
KELSO, WA 98626

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT #66
KELSO, WA