

## August 2020

### Page 1

*New Exhibit Ready for Phase 3 Opening*

### Page 2

*Covid-19 Update—While the Museum's been Closed...*

*No Fair this Year, Winterfest Pending*

### Page 3

*Youth Radio Participants*

*Covid-19 Survey*

### Page 4

*Traveling Trunk Programs of the 2019-2020 School*

### Page 5

*From the Collections Room*

### Page 6 & 7

*New Exhibit Activity!*

### Page 8

*Calendar of Events*

## New Exhibit Ready for Phase 3 Opening

The 40th anniversary of Mount St. Helen's eruption which greatly impacted the local landscape and lives of Cowlitz County residents was this year. To commemorate this event the museum has an exhibit highlighting life on Spirit Lake prior to the eruption. This exhibit, *Memories of a Lost Landscape* is a hybrid of the exhibit previously seen at Hoffstadt Bluffs which was removed since the center was

sold in 2017. These interpretive panels, partnered with photos, narrative, and artifacts from our collection, are part of our current exhibit in the temporary gallery. In addition, the museum took into its possession the famous KOMO-4 car which journalist David Crockett used during the historic event, ultimately abandoning the vehicle and rolling film while he walked the dark and barren landscape. This car was previously accessible at Hoffstadt Bluffs, and has been in storage since 2017. Now the car is on



CCHM Director, Joseph Govednik, inspects the KOMO-4 car. The car had some minor work done to make it roll and steer. The gas tank was removed and all remaining fluids drained. The car was then cleaned and treated for pests prior to installation.



CCHM Curator, Bill Watson, works on interpretive labels for the new Spirit Lake exhibit in the museum's temporary gallery. Bill spent many hours looking through archival images and gathering artifacts to enrich the display.

exhibit here at the Cowlitz County Historical Museum. The KOMO 4 car will be another highlight when the museum reopens in Phase 3 of the Washington Safe-Start plan. We look forward to opening and sharing these treasures, old and new, for the community to see again!

### **Historical Society Officers**

Michael O. Perry  
*President*

Jonell Day Kenagy  
*Vice-President*

Chris Skaugset  
*Secretary*

Thomas Pence  
*Treasurer*

Darren Ullmann  
*Past-President*

### **Board of Directors**

Richard Green

Frank King

Lee Kessler

Kris McElroy Weber

Cal Lantz

Nick Fazio

### **Museum Staff**

Joseph Govednik  
*Museum Director*

Jim Elliott  
*Office Manager*

Bill Watson  
*Collections Curator*

Danielle Robbins  
*Education &  
Public Programs Coordinator*

### **MUSEUM HOURS**

Closed to the public until  
Phase 3.

**Phone** (360) 577-3119

### **E-mail**

[govednikj@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:govednikj@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

[elliottj@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:elliottj@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

[watsonb@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:watsonb@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

[robbinsd@co.cowlitz.wa.us](mailto:robbinsd@co.cowlitz.wa.us)

### **Website**

[www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/museum](http://www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/museum)

# **Covid-19 Update**

## **While the Museum's been Closed...**

During the past few months the museum has been closed to the public as directed by the Governor's office. However, working within state and local guidelines, the staff has been working in shifts at the museum and from home as practical. We have made significant progress on a number of projects.

- All 90+ VHS remaining video tapes and the several dozen remaining audio tapes have been digitized and ready to be indexed into PastPerfect (our collection management system).
- The short-term exhibit area has been completely changed over to feature pre-eruption Spirit Lake and the camps and activities nearby. Some excellent artifacts from our collections are on display, and freshly digitized camp songs and related pictures appear on two video monitors.
- The KOMO TV4 (Seattle) "volcano" car is now in the front area of the museum. During the May 18, 1980 eruption, this car and its driver, KOMO videographer Dave Crockett were trapped near the Toutle River as the ash cloud swept above him. With camera rolling, Dave spoke his poignant thoughts as he struggled to ultimate safety.
- The meeting room was repainted.
- Educational programs are being developed for online delivery as applicable for student interaction for the fall.
- Much needed organizing, sorting, and general "going through boxes" within the museum. As we sift through materials, so too have the public, and we had a good flow of public inquiries regarding attic finds, and many offers to donate items to the museum.
- Put into place necessary sanitizer, sneeze guards, and other PPE so we are prepared for reopening. Unfortunately the touchable children's exhibit components have been temporarily removed during this time for public safety.

## **No Fair this Year, Winterfest Pending**

The museum is seeking your input on how COVID-19 has impacted your life. Please consider taking a moment to complete the COVID-19 survey on the museum's website and we will add to our archives for future reference.

# Youth Radio Participants

Many of you have heard the radio spots for “Today in Cowlitz County History” broadcast on 101.5 *The Wave* in the mornings at 6:20, 7:20, and 8:20. The radio spots have aired over a year and we continue to get positive feedback from listeners. The spots are usually voiced by CCHM Director Joseph Govednik, however this last spring you may have heard a more youthful element to the program, voiced by Mt. Solo Middle School Student, Kaylee Rinker. Ms. Rinker was excited to participate in the program and we were pleased with the responses from the audience. Based on this encouragement, we look forward to inviting Hannah Kessler, from Castle Rock Middle School, to voice the upcoming August program.

**Do you know a youth between 7th and 12th grade who would like to participate in “Today in Cowlitz County History?” Let us know and we can arrange an audition.**



*Hannah after recording content in the museum’s “recording studio” which is located in back of the collections room.*



*Kaylee voicing “Today in History” last spring in family friend and Museum Office Manager, Jim Elliott’s home recording studio.,*



*Vincent Burch has been with the museum for over a year. Vincent searches through old newspapers to find interesting stories about local history for the radio spots. Without his help, producing “Today in History” would prove very difficult.*



## Covid-19 Survey

The museum is seeking your input on how COVID-19 has impacted your life. Please consider taking a moment to complete the COVID-19 survey on the museum’s website and we will add to our archives for future reference.



## **Traveling Trunk Programs of the 2019-2020 School Year**

Before the school year came to an abrupt end in March, the Museum's Traveling Trunk program was reaching record numbers of elementary students throughout our county. We served 860 students from 11 schools in Longview, Kelso, Castle Rock, Toutle, and Woodland. For many, it was the first time the Traveling Trunk had been presented in their school. The trunk presentations include Local Native Americans, The Oregon Trail, and Building Longview. Museum staff use a PowerPoint to provide visual references while students engage through crafts, games, and passing around items from the education collection.

Teacher all agree, "We LOVE it!" One teacher stated, "I really appreciate you giving our kids such an incredible learning opportunity." Another said, "Over the course of these sessions my students have shown an increased interest in our areas history."

"Each presentation was very interactive and kept my kids engaged." Other teacher comments include, "The kids really enjoyed themselves, especially getting the opportunity to hold and observe artifacts," and, "Year after year, my students enjoy this program. Thank you for continuing to do it."

Student have added that, "I loved the craft that we made and the pictures," "It was so fun. I want to do it a trillion times," and "That's so cool!"

Thank you to everyone who has volunteered during one of our many kids' programs this last school year! Although it is uncertain what the next school year will look like, the museum hopes to keep offering quality programs to students through virtual outreach. We look forwards to working with schools as we all move forwards together.

## From the Collections Room

Items which have come in since the last newsletter include: locally produced magazines, photos and postcards, a scrapbook, a diploma, and even some more Grainart. I was most intrigued, though, by the other items which came in with the Grainart.

On January 25th, a pair of donors brought in a group of items they'd gotten from a retired antique dealer. The star of the show was the nearly thirty pieces of Grainart / sandblast art, most of which were new to the collection. (For those who don't remember, Grainart was produced locally by the Long-Bell Lumber Company, using sandblasting and stencils to make artistic silhouettes on wood.) Donated with the Grainart, though, were eight seemingly plain pottery cups and a vase. The donor said the pottery had sat in the antique dealer's chicken coop for decades, so they were a mess by the time the donor's acquired them. They cleaned them up the best they could, then tried to find out more about them through the maker's mark on the bottom.

On the bottom of each was an incised maker's mark (some painted in, some not) in stylized letters which read "Dromore". An internet search brought up four or five similar pottery pieces for sale on auction sites, and one reference to the company itself. That reference was found in Bulletin No. 24: Clays and Shales of Washington, by Sheldon L. Glover, published by the Washington State Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Geology. And though it was published in 1941, much of the information in it had been gathered between 1919 and 1923. In the middle of the bulletin, in a section which lists pottery companies by county, the only entry for Cowlitz County reads:

*Dromore Pottery – The Dromore Pottery is on Highway No. 99 just north of Kalama. The clay used is from the A. B. pit, Stevens*

*County, and is obtained by truck from clay shipments sent to Portland, Oregon, by railroad. The clay is hand washed, screened through 60 mesh, allowed to dry to proper plasticity, and aged. The ware, ornamental pottery, is formed by kick-wheel and by casting, dried in the open air, and fired in two kerosene-fired up-draft square kilns of 36-inch inside dimensions. Glazes are mixed in a pebble mill and applied after the usual preliminary "biscuit" firing.*

So it was made locally, probably around 1921, but that is all we know. If anyone has any more information on Dromore Pottery, such as who owned / ran it or how long it lasted, could you please contact the Museum and let us know. Hopefully this is one of history's solvable mysteries.

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



*Dromore Pottery recently acquired by museum*

# New Exhibit Activity!

When the museum reopens, there will be a new exhibit *Memories of a Lost Landscape*, about Mt. St. Helens before the 1980 eruption when the mountain was our hidden bit of paradise. Until the reopening, here is a “sneak peek” activity for families to do together. Look at these Mt. St. Helens and Spirit Lake photos and talk about the questions, or make up your own!

1. What do you know about Mt. St. Helens? Have you ever visited Mt. St. Helens?
2. Have your parents or grandparents shared stories about their memories of the mountain with you? What did you learn? If they are not from here, where are they from?
3. Looking at these photos, would you think that Mt. St. Helens was a “dead volcano”?
4. Talk about some of the activities of those who visited the mountain:
  - a. Do the hikers have the same type of equipment that hikers take with them now? Would you rather have climbed the mountain now or then? Why?
  - b. What about the skiers? How are they similar or different to today’s skiers and snowboarders? How did they get up the mountain before chair lifts?
  - c. Would you have wanted to go camping around Spirit Lake back then? Why or why not? What do you think your favorite activity would have been? What would your least favorite part of camping have been?

## PRE-ERUPTION MT. ST. HELENS

---

### *Hiking*



*Hikers on top of Mt. St. Helens, 1910s-20s*



*Campfire & YMCA hiking groups, 1913*

## *Skiing*



*Longview Ski Club, 1940s-50s*



*Mt. St. Helens Ski Club, 1940s-50s*

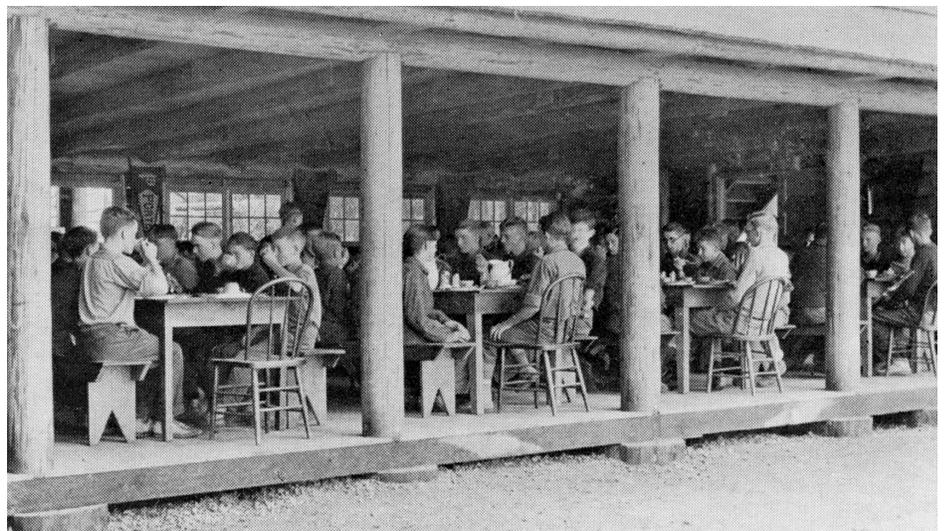
## *Camping*



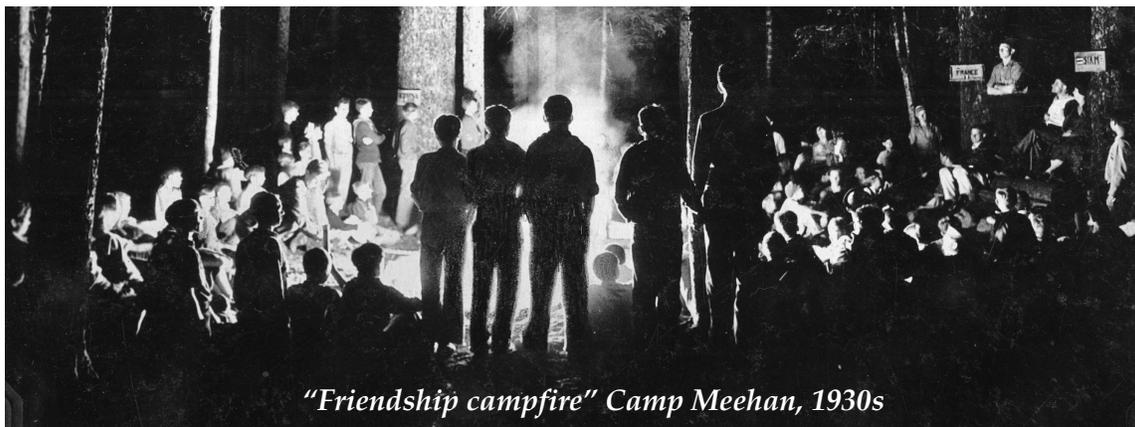
*Boys outside a tent, Camp Meehan, 1925*



*Camp Meehan swim race, 1928*



*Dining pavilion, Camp Meehan, 1925*



*"Friendship campfire" Camp Meehan, 1930s*

# calendar

## Calendar of Events – Summer/Fall 2020

### Museum Reopens in Phase 3!

**September 3rd:** First Thursday Programs Resume in Online Format

**October 1st-4th:** The Wall That Heals, traveling Vietnam War Memorial at Longview Memorial Park

**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