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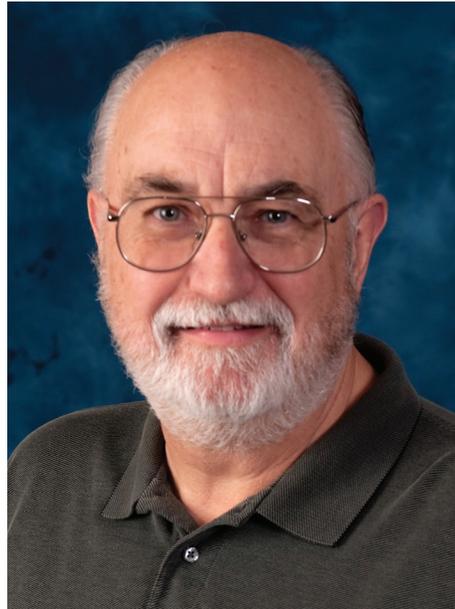
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Calendar of Events

Farewell message from Jim - April 2022

I wish to thank the Historical Society members, board members, and staff who have made working the past 13 years at the Museum such an interesting, fulfilling, and enjoyable part of my life. Cowlitz County has a rich and fascinating heritage, and, thanks to each of you, the Museum



will continue to keep and tell the stories that make up that heritage to future generations.

The staff has been more like extended family than anything else, which I expect will continue. I will miss the regular interaction with the current and prior staff members: previous Director David Freece, who got me involved here many years ago and launched the Museum into what we have today; Bill Watson, our quiet but oh so knowledgeable Curator; Danielle Robbins, our Program & Education Coordinator using her

high energy to connect with kids (LOTS of kids); Director Joseph Govednik, who is now guiding us all through the many changes in the way people connect with and learn from their Museum; Alexa Jordan, our Bookkeeper, who keeps the financials straight; and most recently,

my replacement, Joanna Roland, who has started off so very well. Be sure to say hello to her when you're in. I expect to continue as a volunteer recording and editing the radio spots for the KLOG radio group. And, of course, I expect to be engaged with most anything relating to local railroads.

Again, thanks to each of you for your visits, your support, and your friendship during my time in the office. And I hope to see you again at OUR Museum.

Jim Elliott

Special Announcement

A special event honoring Jim's service to the Cowlitz County Historical Society will be scheduled in the near future. Stay tuned!

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MUSEUM HOURS

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Website

www.co.cowlitz.wa.us/museum

Let the Good Times Grow at the Fair

This year the Cowlitz County Fair theme is "Let the Good Times Grow!" The Museum is excited to be partnering with the WSU Master Gardeners to bring a small exhibit, "From Farm to Picnic" on the historic growing, cooking, preserving, and sharing of food in our community. We would love to show you the Bush Family log cabin on the northwest corner of the fairgrounds during this year's fair. From Wednesday, July 27 to Saturday, July 30 the cabin will be open daily from 11 am to 7 pm. There will be kid's crafts and historic toys including the ever-popular stilts. Come join us for all the fun!

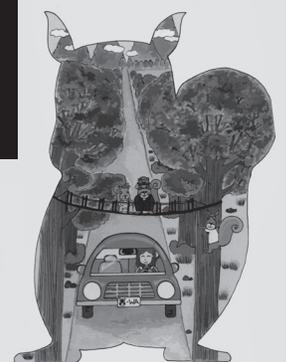


Now Featured at the Cowlitz County Museum:

**A NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK ABOUT
THE NUTTY NARROWS BRIDGE**

*Bright-Eyes, Bushy-Tail,
and the
Nutty Narrows Bridge*

by Donna Howard



Director's Message

We have been busy this year with many new activities and changes at the museum. Most notably, our longtime Office Manager, Jim Elliott, has retired after 13 years of working with the museum in this role. Jim took on office management responsibilities as his "retirement job" back in 2009 after previously serving on the CCHS Board, including as President during the museum addition capital project of 2003. Jim has been part of our family in the office and we will miss his presence. A retirement event will be planned in the near future.

Joining our team is Joanna Roland, who is our new Office Manager at the museum. She has taken on full duties and ushered us into a smooth transition for this critical role. We are grateful to have her join our team.

In other transitions at the museum we want to thank Mike Perry for his service on the CCHS Board. Mike was both President and Vice President during great changes at the museum, particularly during David Freece's retirement and most recently at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic. Thank



Loaned East German artifacts on display

you Mike for your service! As Mike rotated off the Board, we welcomed former WA State Senator Dean Takko to our team. Dean has already been assisting with our school-based educational programs which have become increasingly more active. Thank you Dean for your enthusiasm for the museum!



We hosted two new exhibits this winter and spring, both with an artistic theme. Longview



CAA President Eileen Thompson handing out awards with her granddaughter

resident, artist, and community activist Hans Shaufus shared his collection of black and white images taken during his travels in Eastern Germany which were displayed with East German artifacts loaned by local persons in the area. For the first time, we partnered with the Columbia Artists Association for the Spring Art Show. This brought a large and expanded audience to our museum. The energy this partnership generated was a

welcome beginning to our spring season, and new activity at the museum.

Warm regards,
Joseph Govednik, Director
Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Welcome CCHS Office Manager-Joanna Roland!

I am excited to join the team as the new Office Manager. Growing up in Longview, I have always cared about our local history. After attending and working at Portland State University, I returned to reside in Kelso with my family. Since finding my way home to Cowlitz County, I have pursued meaningful, community-focused work by offering my time to local volunteer programs. I love to give back to this community that provides so much enrichment to the families living here. The Museum's mission has immeasurable value for residents in Cowlitz County. I consider myself fortunate to be in the position to support the preservation of Cowlitz County's history.



Fully Engaged with Schools

As the school year wraps up, the Museum's traveling trunk program is finally returning to normal. With the end of the mask mandate in March, Museum staff are now able to present programs in full, including doing art projects and games with students which up until now had to be removed from the presentations. A teacher from Rose Valley Elementary expressed her excitement at the return to normal by saying, "Loved the hands-on history – We can read about it, but having the opportunity to see & touch artifacts is invaluable. Thank you so much! We have games & ideas for toys that we can take from the past to the future!" Another teacher from Butler Acres Elementary stated, "The students have really enjoyed the presentation. When class ended one student said, 'I don't want it to end. I am enjoying this!'" Thank you to everyone who has volunteered during our Traveling Trunk Programs this school year!

Holiday Bag Give Away

Olaf was a huge hit at the Winter Festival bag giveaway last December 3rd! Thank you to Janine Manny of the Longview YMCA for helping to hand out bags in costume and to Dawn Morgan of the Children's Discovery Museum for her help. In total, 118 totes were given away during the event. The totes were donated from Peace Health and Red Canoe Credit Union. The Children's Discovery Museum brought 150 kid packets and 100 adult packets to add to the Museum's 150 craft bags, all of which went in the totes. The Museum's craft bags had holiday crafts from around the world, coloring pages, recipes, and activities to take home for some winter fun! An additional 40 Museum craft bags were given to the YMCA for their winter break After School Program kids. Craft bags continued to be given out at the museum throughout the rest of December, bringing holiday cheer to the families of our community. Thank you to everyone who helped put together craft bags and kid's packets to make this event such a success!



From the Collections Room, Spring 2022

Spring is finally here and the collections are “blooming” along with the foliage outside. Since the last newsletter we have received: Covid-19 related items from the Health Department; Grimm family photos in early Kelso; a Longview 50th Anniversary sign; Cowlitz Bridge Company photos from around 1910; a DVD of the 1955 Long-Bell “Tree to Trade” film; a 1905 Castle Rock cookbook; a Packard automobile promotional banner used at Myklebust Motors; photos of the Long-Bell machine shop in Ryderwood; and other photos and documents. Two donations from February and March, however, merit special mentions.

In February, the family of former Kelso Police Chief Tony Stoutt brought in material related to Kelso’s Bugs Bunny Club. Started by Chief Stoutt in 1974 and running at least through the early 1980s, the Bugs Bunny Club was a Saturday morning program for kids held at the Kelso Theater (now Kelso Theater Pub) that featured cartoons or movies, prize giveaways and drawings, and a safety presentation by a member of the Kelso Police Department. Chief Stoutt started the program not only to give kids something to do on a Saturday morning to help keep them out of mischief, but to have local

children get to know their police officers and not be afraid of interacting with them.

The police department initially issued 2000 Bugs Bunny Club cards, free to any child who wanted one, that would admit them to the theater each Saturday morning. It quickly became popular, with entry lines stretching around the block for the first several weeks. More cards had to be printed later. While in line, a volunteer in a bunny costume would go around to greet and entertain the children. The program received support from local businesses and service clubs, which made financial contributions towards the shows and prizes. The donated material does not make it clear when the program was discontinued.

In March, a donation was spurred by the latest issue of the Cowlitz Historical Quarterly. In that issue, we re-ran a story from a 1988 Quarterly (Vol. 30, No. 3) from Frank Adams about his time as a rural delivery postman out of Carrolls, before he became Kelso’s first letter carrier in 1924. Upon seeing the article again, Adams’ grandson contacted the museum and offered us his Kelso letter carrier postal uniform. For having not

Continued on page 6, Collections Room



The Daily News photo of children lined up around the block for a Bugs Bunny Club showing in 1975.

Collections Room, *continued from page 5*

been worn officially since 1958 (when Frank Adams retired), the uniform is in spectacular shape. It came complete with old post office insignia on the buttons and on a patch on the jacket sleeve, a black leather bow-tie, and a hat with a silver shield pin on it, printed with a large number "1".

Included with the uniform were scans of twelve photographs, some of which were used in the small autobiographical booklet Frank Adams put together in the 1980s, "Frank Adams: My Early Days", which the museum received a copy of in 2017. The photos include images of Frank both on his rural route on Mt. Pleasant around 1920 and of his letter carrier days in Kelso between 1924 and 1958.

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



Frank Adams in his postal uniform posing with some salmon he caught on the way home from his route, 1931.

President's Message

Hello all – springtime is here!

Springtime for me is always a season of renewal and freshness. Here in southwest Washington, that means lots of baby animals in the fields, flowers blooming, and a region that is more colorful than ever.

This spring also marks another renewal milestone – the Historical Society is taking steps to make our organization, and the essential Cowlitz County Historical Museum, future-ready. What do I mean by future-ready? I mean the Historical Society is starting work to ensure our museum is well positioned to thrive and continue to preserve and celebrate the history of the Lower Columbia region for years to come. We are excited to welcome spring with on-site programming again after a two year break.

As part of this effort, we will continue our work to update our strategic plan, build a strong volunteer base, and make critical connections with visitors and schoolchildren that serve our purpose and our community.

The Cowlitz County Historical Museum is open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 am to 4 pm, and admission is always free. If you need a break from the April showers, I hope to see you there.

Best, Nick Fazio



ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

We are so grateful for all who have given to our Annual Fund Drive thus far this year. If you have not yet responded to our appeal, please consider the Museum in your annual giving this year to support the impactful programming and historical stewardship we provide to our community. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Fund Drive Donors

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Lloyd and Myrna Raff
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Dean and Debra Takko
Edith Uthmann
Hope Wale
Linda Waterman
Teri Weedman

CALENDAR

Calendar of Events – Summer 2022

June 3rd at 6pm (Please note the earlier start time for this program!): “71 at 71: Biking 71 Miles at 71 Years Old” by Jim LeMonds

July 27th – 30th: Cowlitz County Fair! See you at the Bush Family Log Cabin

August 20th: Squirrel Fest

Like Us On Facebook!



405 ALLEN STREET
KELSO, WA 98626

