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Longview turns 100!

Welcome to Longview's 100th anniversary! The baby of the area, Longview has finally caught up with the other towns of Cowlitz County in reaching triple digits. While technically incorporated in 1924, it was 1923 that saw Longview take shape and become a reality. Citizens of the "Planned City" have always considered this our birthday and are celebrating with a number of events throughout the year. You can stay up to date on the festivities by checking out the website <https://www.longview100.org/> and clicking on the events page.

Don't know much about Longview's history and looking for a good place to start? The Museum's First Thursday on April 6th at 7pm will be an "Introduction to the History of Longview" with Education Coordinator Danielle Robbins. Learn a little about Longview's beginnings and some of its most prominent landmarks in this peek into the city's founding.



Longview Centennial

The Museum is one of many community partners celebrating the Longview Centennial and letting people know that this year is the 100th birthday of Longview. The museum is currently selling anniversary calendars for \$5.00 each (cash only), while the YMCA has a wider selection of merchandise if anyone is interested.



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Joanna Roland

Office Manager

Bill Watson

Collections Curator

Danielle Robbins

Education &

Public Programs Coordinator

MUSEUM HOURS

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www.cowlitzcountyhistory.org

Year Starts Strong with School Programs

The new year is just getting started and the museum has already visited six different schools throughout the county, reaching over 250 kids with our Traveling Trunk programs so far in 2023. We are especially excited to be offering the "Building Longview" program for 2nd graders; kids love learning about their town's 100th birthday. Teachers list some of their favorite things from the programs as being, "Seeing the photos alongside the past and present so students could see how Longview has changed," and "the hands-on items and the physical movement for the students of this age." One teacher enthusiastically shared, "Danielle is so knowledgeable, and you can see her passion for history! We love having her in our classroom. Thank you for all you do! ☺" Students have shared, "I enjoy that miss Danielle brings items for us to look at," and "It's pretty cool to learn stuff!" Perhaps the greatest compliment we have received is from the students who ask, "Will you come next year?!" Our answer is always, "We hope so!"

Visitors Thrilled to Have Winter Festival Back

It was wonderful to have Winter Festival back in person! Several attending families thanked the museum staff for hosting the beloved holiday event again after two years. This year around 100 visitors celebrated with us as we highlighted Christmas in Cowlitz County throughout the eras. Favorite activities and crafts included making dry hippie tie-dye art, a disco-era spirograph, and a modern "TikTok dance stage" dress-up booth. Visitors also had a lot of fun with a 1920's scavenger hunt in the gallery for Longview's Centennial. The scavenger hunt is still available if you care to come find our flapper-era artifacts yourself. A big thank you to the Storytellers Network and The Lower Columbia Woodcarvers for sharing their holiday tales and amazing carvings with visitors again this year and to all the volunteers who made this event possible.





Images from our collections storage improvements. Collections Room 10 with all shelving removed for new tracked flooring and collections items temporarily stored in the meeting room. Turn to the Director's Message on page 5 to learn more.

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.

GiveBIG 2023

Thank You to everyone that participated in *Give More 24!* in 2022. We are so grateful for your support as we joined with nonprofits throughout southwest Washington in this fundraising event.

This year *Give More 24!* will partner with *GiveBIG*, a statewide giving day. The name and date will change, but the event will remain the same in practice as a day to support and celebrate local nonprofits. We hope you will join us on May 2-3 for *GiveBIG 2023*, coinciding with Historic Preservation Month. We will provide more information about how to participate on our website and social media.

GIVE
MORE
24!

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101 COMPASS
2023

Give More 24! is joining forces with GiveBIG in 2023

President's Message

Hello CCHS Friends!

I am honored to be your new CCHS Board President. In this edition of the CCHS Newsletter, I want to introduce myself and offer a few thoughts on why historic preservation matters so much to me.

I am a native resident of Cowlitz County, having grown up in Toutle, where my ancestors settled in the 1870s. History has been a hobby of mine since I was young. Fortunately, I had people in my life who encouraged and guided me in this endeavor which eventually led to a career as a teacher of history.

Several years ago, I was on a day trip with a dear friend who was a professor of speech and history at a local college. At one point on our journey, we happened to stop at a small, privately-owned museum curated by an exceedingly cordial woman who explained the history of the location. After discovering our knowledge of history, our hostess produced several storage containers filled with artifacts of the past. She entreated us to examine them and, while sharing, solicited what pertinent information she could from my friend and me. We were, to say the least, overjoyed to get our hands on these treasures from the past, if not a bit concerned about the care and storage these

relics would receive in the days to come.

Artifacts are a tantalizing conduit to the past. With proper care and storage, they may continue to tell their stories indefinitely. Sadly, many such relics fall victim to a myriad of enemies. Decay, mishandling, improper environments, and theft all play a role in the loss of many priceless objects from our past.



I am proud to say that CCHS staff care deeply about the artifacts in their charge. The employees and volunteers at CCHS strive to ensure that these objects are treated with utmost care. I am enthusiastic that the new compacting-storage project being undertaken at the museum will be a major advancement in our dedicated staff's ability to ensure that the relics of the past will be given the best possible care.

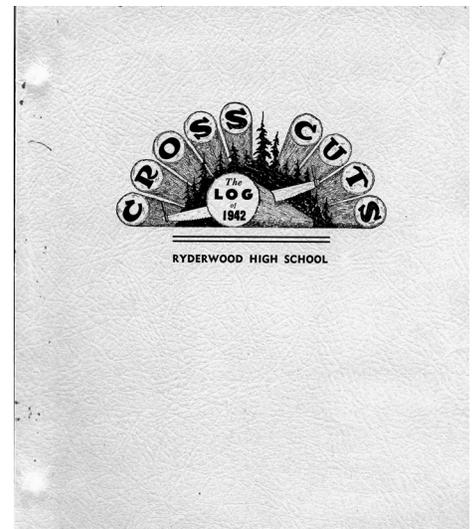
Remember that the museum is a great place for a rainy-day field trip for kids and grandkids, or to bring friends for a new experience. Come on by!

-Lee Kessler, CCHS Board President

From the Collections Room, February 2023

Although it has been a slower winter in the collections workroom with donations, we certainly made up for quantity with some quality items donated to the museum. Since the last newsletter we have received: some Longview postcards; some 1940s student material from Ryderwood, including the museum's first three

Ryderwood High School yearbooks; a digital copy of Longview 50th Anniversary parade footage; a matchbook from the Columbia Inn in Kalama; 1930s and 1940s letters and pay stubs found in a Longview attic; an early Kodak camera; a "hot stick" ruler from Archie Anderson, and an anonymous folder of papers.



Museum Director's Message

Dear CCHS Friends,

There are several exciting things happening at the museum over the next few months. By the time you read this, a major phase of our collections storage improvement project will have been installed. This improvement will place our storage shelving on tracks allowing movement of the shelves. This capability means that we will utilize unused aisle space in Storage Room 10, one of our largest storage rooms, nearly doubling capacity in the room. We have over 37,000 artifacts under the museum's stewardship and this increase in storage capacity will benefit our ability to properly care for our region's rich material history. One of the core elements of a museum are the artifacts within and the stories connected with the objects. Artifacts bring history to life, be it large such as a fireplace mantle from the Jackson Inn or small like a ceramic plate from the Long-Bell Lumber Company cafeteria, every piece in our collection tells our story. Funding for this project is through a generous grant from the Washington State Heritage Capital Projects, matched funds through revenue generated by our endowment fund, and through the generous participation of our membership and community.

We are pleased to announce the return of the Columbian Artists Spring Art Show at the museum. This year marks the 45th year of the Spring Art Show and will highlight Eileen Thompson as it's featured artist. The opening reception for the show along with artists' awards is from 2-4pm on Saturday, March 25th. The show will exhibit at the museum through Friday, April 14th. All of the art is produced by local artists and will be available for purchase. Proceeds will benefit

the museum as well as the Artist Association. Last year this was a great success and we look forward to partnering again on this event. For more information about the art show please visit the museum website at www.cowlitzcountyhistory.org or www.columbianartist.org for details.



Concurrently with the Spring Art Show we will open our newest exhibit, "1923: The Year that Changed Cowlitz County". This exhibit will highlight some of the important centennial events that occurred during the year 1923. Some of the major events to be highlighted in this exhibit include the City of Longview's founding, the creation of Ryderwood, the Allen Street Bridge collapse, the relocation of the county seat from Kalama to Kelso, and the completion of the Pacific Highway. We look forward to opening this exhibit by early April.

We will send more information about the upcoming exhibit, art show, and opportunities to get involved with our storage project which will be fully installed by June 30. We look forward to seeing you this spring and are always grateful for your support.

Warm regards,

Joseph Govednik
Museum Director
Cowlitz County Historical Museum

Fund Drive Donors

COLUMBIA (\$1,000 and over)

Bob Chace
Richard Colf
Stewart and Cynthia Dall
Sharon Evans
Lynn Eversaul
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COWLITZ (\$500-\$999)

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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 historical society newsletters and invitations to special Museum events, as well as a 10% discount on all items sold in the Museum store as well as a 20% savings on custom printed photos from our collection. 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 giving a gift membership!

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

- General Membership \$40
- Sustaining Membership..... \$100
- Benefactor Membership..... \$150
- Sponsor Membership \$500
- Life Membership..... \$1,500

For gift memberships at the Sustaining Level or higher, the recipient will also receive free admission to all NARM-affiliated museums, Visit <http://narmassociation.org>

Your Name _____ Phone _____ Date _____

Address _____ E-mail _____

Gift Member's Name _____ Phone _____

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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

New museum QR codes below

Calendar of Events – Spring 2023

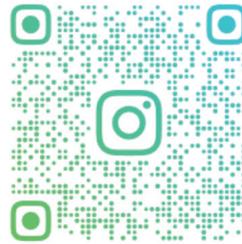
March 25: Columbia Artists Association Spring Art Show Opening Reception, 2pm-4pm

April 6th at 7pm: “Introduction to the History of Longview” by Danielle Robbins

May 4th at 7pm: The Lower Columbia Genealogical Society

June: No First Thursday-HVAC Construction

Follow us!



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