



July 2024

Page 2

*Historical Society
President's Message*

*Museum Director's
Message*

Page 3

*Celebrating "Stars,
Stripes, & Summer
Nights" at the Cowlitz
County Fair!*

Page 4

*Historic Property
Inventory*

Page 5

*Museum Staff
Receive Awards*

*Thank You - Rick
Jaspers*

Page 6

*Continued -
Staff Learn and Share
at the WAMA
Conference*

*Thank You, Life
Members*

Page 7

*Gift Membership
Form*

Page 8

Calendar of Events

Staff Learn and Share at the WAMA Conference

The Washington Museum Association (WaMA) Annual Conference was in Vancouver this year from June 12-14. With the conference geographically so close, the CCHM staff took full advantage of the professional development opportunity.

Education & Public Programs Coordinator Danielle Robbins attended several sessions, the keynote address, and other networking events. The first session involved learning the ins-and-outs of hosting a public history day in Sedro-Woolley, WA, and how such an event might be hosted locally. The second focused on the preserving of large items, namely a 1925 fishing boat in Gig Harbor, WA; a highlight from this section was connecting with individuals who were knowledgeable in historic cabins and offered advice on making repairs to our Bush family log cabin at the fairgrounds. Danielle attended sessions facilitated by representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, the Squaxin Island Tribe, the Suquamish Tribe, and the Makah Tribe speaking about their own museums, research centers, cultural centers, and collections. The information provided will be used to help local teachers enhance state required curriculum on Native Americans.

Curator Bill Watson and Office Manager Joanna Roland took part in Registrars to the Rescue, a hands-on task force of museum professionals from all over the state assisting with a special collections project as part of the WaMA conference. This year there were two locations for this opportunity to learn more about museum collections projects and connect with curatorial staff from other institutions.

Bill participated at the Lelooska Foundation cultural center in Ariel. The Lelooska people requested assistance upgrading some basic display mounts as well as making condition reports for materials in their museum. Twenty people, about a third of them volunteers for the Lelooska Foundation, took part. Three groups of three people each were assigned to carve ethafoam blocks into display mounts for clothing. The others were paired off into professional/volunteer groups to go through the museum's cases and prepare condition

reports for each item. Bill was assigned to the latter group and, with the help of an eager-to-learn Lelooska volunteer, was able to complete reports for an entire case and part of another. Many of the cases had not been opened, or the objects inside handled, for at least 15-20 years. The condition reports used, provided by the Washington Museum Association, were thorough, and will provide a good template for our museum in the future. A tour of the museum was provided, including an up-close look at one of Chief Lelooska's Kalama totem poles, there for restoration, and a behind-the-scenes look at their storyteller's mask/changing room.



Continued on Page 6

Historical Society Officers

Lee Kessler

President

Nick Fazio

Past President

Dena Enyeart

Secretary

Bob Chace

Treasurer

Board of Directors

Ted Gruber

Erik Moser

Dean Takko

Brad Thurman

Museum Staff

Joseph Govednik

Museum Director

Joanna Roland

Office Manager

Bill Watson

Collections Curator

Danielle Robbins

Education &

Public Programs Coordinator

MUSEUM HOURS

Tuesday - Saturday 10 am to 4 pm

Phone (360) 577-3119

E-mail

govednikj@cowlitzwa.gov

rolandj@cowlitzwa.gov

watsonb@cowlitzwa.gov

robbinsd@cowlitzwa.gov

Website

www.cowlitzcountyhistory.org

President's Message

Greetings fellow CCHS members and friends! Summer has arrived and with it all its trappings. From barbecues to bike rides, no doubt the season will be filled with activities galore. I was recently fortunate to spend an evening picking wild blackberries with my family. This outing brought back fond childhood memories of foraging berries with my father and grandfather. I hope that someday my children will remember with fondness the magenta-stained fingers, lazy, ochre sunsets, and the delicious fruits of their labor.



Here at the museum, preparations are underway for both new and familiar summer happenings. The Cowlitz County Fair is just around the corner which will feature family activities at the Bush Cabin and a Jail-Your-Local-Official fundraising event. While many of our fair activities are long traditions, it is always refreshing to see families enjoy the activities each year. Hopefully these will provide the opportunity for folks to experience history and build memories.

In other news, the CCHS is partnering with the Washington Museum Association on an archival and digitization project. This is one of several opportunities in which the CCHS has built and maintained statewide relationships with institutions such as the Washington State Historical Society and the Secretary of State's office. If you haven't visited the museum lately, come by soon to see the exhibit "1923: The Year That Changed Cowlitz County History", which closes July 20th.

I sincerely hope to see our members and friends as we enjoy this summer season.

Warm regards,
Lee Kessler,
CCHS President

Museum Director's Message

Dear fellow CCHS members. I am thrilled to report we have had a very active and successful first half of 2024. Our First Thursday speaker programs reached, or exceeded, pre-pandemic levels. We are so grateful for our presenters who engaged our audience with meaningful and interesting topics, often supported with artifacts on display. Recently, we finalized a partnership with the Children's Discovery Museum (CDM) to host some of their family friendly interactive exhibits in the temporary gallery later this summer. If you have not heard yet, the CDM is moving into a new location at the Catlin School.



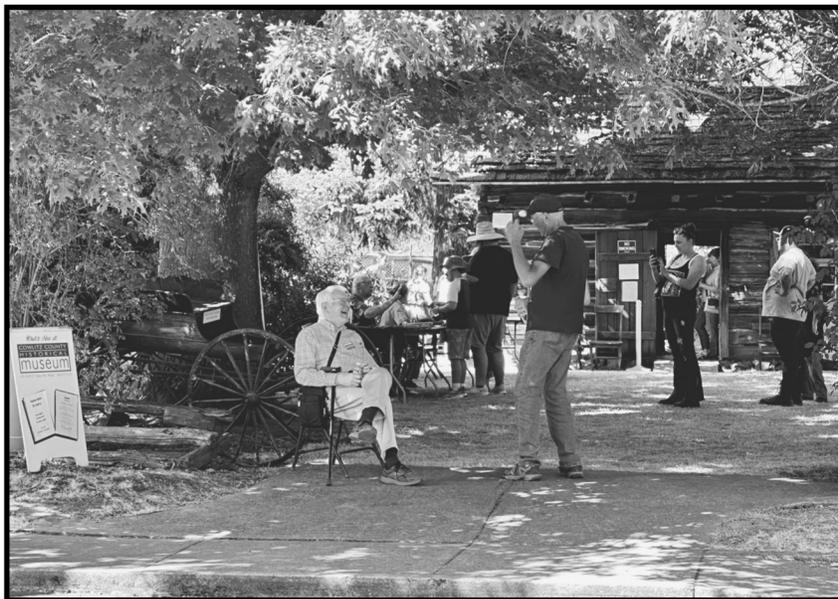
The CDM will close to the public during this move and locate some of its exhibits at the CCHM during the interim so families may still access the hands-on experiences. Six years ago, the CCHM and CDM partnered during a previous relocation with positive results for both organizations. The CCHM increased its visitors, community footprint, and engaged new audiences, while the CDM maintained a public interface with its patrons. This means that the exhibit, "1923: The Year That Changed Cowlitz County" will close on July 20, and the new family and interactive exhibits will open on July 30. The CDM exhibits will run until mid-October. If you have not seen "1923" yet, please come visit us soon! We look forward to seeing you again, and remember, we will be closed the week of the Cowlitz County Fair for our programming at the Bush Family Cabin. See you at the Fair!

Warm regards,
Joseph Govednik
Museum Director, CCHM

Celebrating “Stars, Stripes, & Summer Nights” at the Cowlitz County Fair!

This year the Cowlitz County Fair theme is “Stars, Stripes, & Summer Nights” and the Museum is celebrating by decorating the log cabin up with a tribute to those who served “Those Who Serve.” Learn about the local efforts of the American Legion, Daughters of the American Revolution, Grand Army of the Republic, and other groups supporting our military through Cowlitz County’s history. 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 24 to Saturday, July 27 the cabin will be open daily from noon to 6pm. There will be kids’ crafts, historic toys including the ever-popular stilts, giant Lincoln Logs courtesy of the Children’s Discovery Museum, and much more. If you would like to volunteer at the log cabin during fair, please contact Programs Coordinator Danielle Robbins at robbinsd@cowlitzwa.gov or call the museum at 360-577-3119. We look forward to seeing you at this year’s fair for all the fun!



Historic Property Inventory

When the Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) was established in December 2016, part of its mandate from the County Commissioners was to create a historic property inventory and make it available to the public. These efforts were begun in earnest in September 2020 and bore fruit in February 2023 with the publishing on the county's website of our first list of about 240 historic properties.

A historic inventory, unlike a historic register, is simply a list recognizing a place's history. There are no legally binding restrictions, protections, or tax breaks like there are with a registered property. Anyone can suggest a property for the inventory, but only the property owner can apply for their site to be registered, be it with the County, State, or Nationally.

This first list was mostly focused on existing structures built one hundred or more years ago (at the time, 1922 and before) and in the county's jurisdiction (not within city limits of any incorporated city in the county). The reason for starting with these criteria is that these properties would be eligible for the County's historic register, if the property owner made an application and it was approved by the Commission. Information gathered included: address, legal property description, age of structure(s), property ownership history (as much as could be quickly gleaned), a quick description of the structure(s) including an assessment of condition and modifications, any additional history, and whether the property was already on the Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation's (DAHP's) inventory website WISSARD. All of this was gathered using publicly available sources.

The commissioners who worked on this inventory included myself (Bill Watson), Erin Thoeny of Woodland, and (now-former commissioner) Darcy Mitchum of Toutle. Dr. David Rice (who has since passed away) also contributed to the non-public list of Native American sites included in the inventory. The information collected was much more wide-ranging than our initial list would suggest. We also gathered information on historic sites without structures, sites

or structures of significance which were less than 100 years old, and also structures within city limits (except Longview, which has its own Historic Preservation Commission and inventory). If the cities of Castle Rock, Toutle, Kelso, Kalama, or Woodland were ever to sign an inter-local agreement with the County allowing the County's HPC jurisdiction within their city limits, these other lists could be published as well.

Prior to publication of the first list, property owners were notified twice by mail and given the option to opt-out of the public list. About a dozen property owners did so.

Because the coming of Long-Bell and Longview in 1923 caused a housing boom in the entire county, if we were to include the 50–100-year-old structures (such as DAHP does), our current list would likely at least quadruple, if not more than that. Nevertheless, this is still an ongoing process, although at a slower pace and more in the background. Other properties which we missed before have since come to light and could be included in future updates.

The Cowlitz County Historic Preservation Commission meets at 10 a.m. on the second Thursday of the month, usually in the General Meeting Room of the County Administration Building. For more information contact Cowlitz County Building and Planning.



Museum Staff Receive Awards

Staff at the CCHM were recently recognized with awards for their contributions to our community and profession. Museum Curator Bill Watson received a Community Leadership Award from the Washington Association of School Administrators for his contributions and research that benefited public education. Museum Director Joseph Govednik received an Award of Excellence from the Washington Museum Association for his work in museum legislative advocacy.



Thank You — Rick Jaspers



The Cowlitz County Historical Museum was fortunate to work with Rick Jaspers for many years in the capacity of graphic designer. During that time, Rick worked on the layout of over 70 Cowlitz Historical Quarterlies. He even authored a Quarterly article of his own in 2015, titled "Independence Day, 1968: The Night the Bridge Came Down." It was very special to have Rick breathe new life into a small piece of local history and share it with a new generation.

Rick commented recently, "I often think about how many events of our past have been lost forever because they were never recorded. I also think about how many stories were preserved because of the Quarterly. I encourage anyone who has a story of local historical significance, to write it down and consider submitting it to the museum." We are indebted to Rick for his dedication to our publications and wish him the best in his retirement so he can spend more time with his wife and family. Thank You Rick!

Staff Learn and Share at the WAMA Conference

Continued From Page 1

Joanna participated at Two Rivers Heritage Museum in Washougal to assist with rehousing textiles in their collections. Staff at Two Rivers requested help with moving quilts and dresses from stacks on shelves into boxes. As one of seven volunteers, Joanna worked in a group with two others to sort through quilts. Her team spent the day preparing reports and repacking the items for storage. In the future when Two Rivers staff inspect the quilts, the reports will contain the item's condition at the time of assessment. This can be valuable information for the staff member in charge of continuing the care of the objects in future. After preparing the report, each quilt was refolded, typically

in a new way to how it was to prevent folds from setting into the fabric. They were then folded with acid-free tissue paper at each touch point, placed into an appropriately labeled acid-free box, and returned to the shelves. In addition, experienced volunteers offered instruction to the Two Rivers staff as they worked on the project, providing insight into collections procedures and best practices. Two Rivers staff expressed how grateful they were to have the volunteers' assistance with their collections project. The CCHM is now better equipped to serve our community through staff participation at the annual WaMA conference.

Thank You, Life Members

The CCHS is grateful for our many members who support us through their membership, gifts of time and resources, and sharing the bond of community. We wanted to take a moment to acknowledge our life members. If you are interested in becoming a life member, please call the museum!

Richard Colf

Dorothy Gevers-Wojtowych

Dennis Weber and Kris McElroy-Weber

Cynthia and Stewart Dall

Same and Rae Wardle

John Natt

Dolphine Mack

Jerry and Huong Kelly

Vince & Karen Penta

Darren Ullmann

Richard Woods

Dr. Bruce Austr

Sharon Bergman-Evans

Jason & Linda Hanks

Carl McCrary

Jeff & Chris Gould

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 \$50
- 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 _____

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

Museum QR codes below

Follow us!

Calendar of Events — Summer/Fall 2024

July 24th – 27th: Cowlitz County Fair! See you at the Bush Family Log Cabin

July 30th: The Children’s Discovery Museum exhibits open!

September 5th at 7pm: First Thursday featuring Woodland’s Elephant Park with author Debbie Ethel- the “Elephant Lady”.

October 3rd at 7pm: First Thursday on Postal History of Cowlitz County with CCHS Board member and author, Ted Gruber.



COWLITZCOUNTYHISTORICALMUSEUM



405 ALLEN STREET
KELSO, WA 98626

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