



July 2025

Page 2

*Historical Society
President's Message*

*Museum Director's
Message*

Page 3

*Gift Shop Featured
Book*

*Continued - Museum
Director's Message*

Page 4

*From the Collections
Room*

Page 5

*This Year's Cowlitz
County Fair
Celebrates A Summer
of Decades*

Page 6

*2024 Annual Fund
Drive Donors*

Page 7

*Gift Membership
Form*

Page 8

Calendar of Events

Kids' Programs Keep Expanding

Here at the Cowlitz County Historical Museum, sharing history with young people is one of our top priorities. Through a combination of museum tours and the ever-popular Traveling Trunk, where we bring the museum into the classroom, we have reached over 1,400 students during the 2024-2025 school year! Our goal is to share local history in such a way that it will spark a lifelong love of learning about the past. If teachers' responses to our programs are any indication, we are doing just that. Our brand-new 2nd grade program had one teacher saying, "Thanks for making history come alive," and another teacher commented "When students were wondering if Miss Danielle was coming back to class a student asked, 'Is the girl with the old stuff coming today again?' My class was excited she was returning for another presentation. Danielle is very engaging to the students!!"

For the first time ever, we reached a couple of schools outside of Cowlitz County. "I learned a lot of things I didn't know personally, and it was nice to have the activities, crafts and artifacts for the kids to see and interact with," said a teacher after having the Traveling Trunk in his classroom for the first time. "Many of my students don't get the opportunity to go to museums, so thanks for bringing the museum to them!" said another. Schools located outside of Cowlitz County reimburse travel expenses while Traveling Trunks to schools in Cowlitz County are completely free. Long time teachers with the program agree, "You are awesome! Thank you so much for being engaging and a positive guest in our classroom!" and "This is fantastic! We will be signing up for this again next year!"

In addition to school programs, the Museum has been partnering with other organizations to reach even more kids in our area. April 5th was the Celebration of Children hosted at Youth and Family Link where families could kickoff Spring Break with a day of activities and then take home a bag full of crafts and other fun things to play with. The event was attended by over 400 people. We hosted a pioneer table at the event and provided "pioneer packets" for the take home bags. The Children's Discovery Museum (CDM) hosted an Earth Day event on April 26th where about 500 people attended. Our station at the event focused on Mt. St. Helens and we helped with the CDM's vinegar and baking soda volcano demonstrations. The CDM also hosted a Mud Day on June 6th to kick off all their summer fun and we led the "Dig Site" mud pit activity which was lots of messy fun! We will be continuing our partnership with CDM throughout summer and fall by leading a 4th Thursday kid's program at CDM from 4:30-5:30 in June, August, September, and October. Learn all about pioneer homes, travel, schools, and food by joining us there. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered during one of our many kids' programs, tours, and Traveling Trunks this school year!



Historical Society Officers

Lee Kessler
President
Erik Moser
Vice President
Dena Enyeart
Secretary
Bob Chace
Treasurer

Board of Directors

Ted Gruber
Dean Takko
Brad Thurman
Hillary Simon-Felix
Seth McNalley

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-

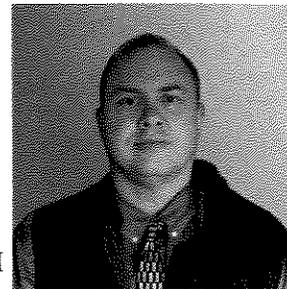
Another summer has arrived here in the Pacific Northwest, and it is my sincere hope that everyone is able to enjoy the season to its utmost in next few months.

For those who don't know me well, I am a history teacher, but more than that, I am a lover of history. I have been this way for as long as I can remember. Some time back, I was asked what I liked about teaching. In brief, my reply focused on the belief that I am fortunate to get to do what I love, learning and sharing history, with young people. To me, history has always been about connecting to the past. Whether through sharing stories, viewing photos, or examining artifacts, keeping history alive is a beautiful thing.

Today, during a visit with some close relatives, I was reminded of the importance of the preservation and telling of history. One of my aunts, a retired history teacher, showed me a 75-year-old newspaper article about a family reunion that had been happening locally for decades prior to 1950. Apparently, part of the celebration each year was to fly a 38-star American flag which had been stitched by some of our ancestors in 1880. In her research about the reunions and the flag, she discovered that it had been taken in by the Cowlitz County Historical Museum some years before. Making a visit to the museum, and with the expert help of our curator, Bill Watson, she was able to locate and view this treasured piece of local history. In a way, she was able to step back in time and appreciate a tangible piece of our history.

While only a small example, this highlights the importance of the work of the CCHS in working toward the preservation of historical artifacts with local provenance. The dedication of our talented staff keeps history alive and apprehensible for generations to come.

Lee Kessler,
CCHS President



Museum Director's Message

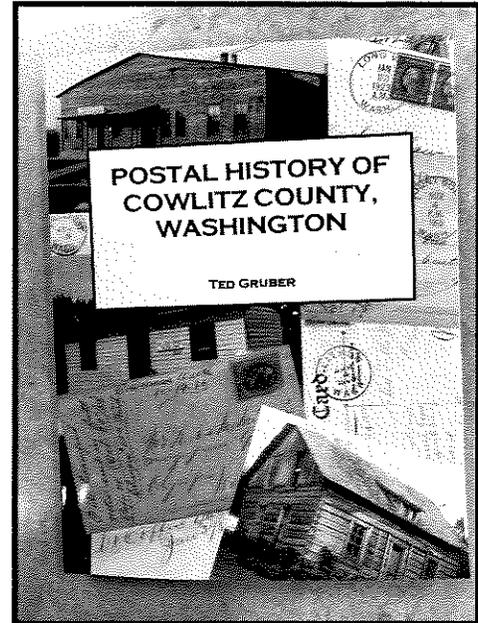
May this message find you well and I hope everyone has had a chance to enjoy the improved weather the summer brings. We concluded another successful year in connecting our local youth with historical programming through our Traveling Trunk program and tours of the museum. We have also entered a time of transition as our longtime Cowlitz Historical Quarterly editor, Jim LeMonds, has retired from his duties as Editor. We wish Jim all the best in his new chapter in life! The Editor is a critical ingredient to the success of our CHQ, which has remained in continuous publication since 1959, making it the longest continually published local historical quarterly in Washington State. Jim has left some big shoes (or for those who know him, bike pedal toe clips) to fill. We have found a qualified and experienced person to take on our editorial needs and I look forward to introducing her in our fall Quarterly issue.



Continued on Page 3

Gift Shop Featured Book

This season's featured book is *Postal History of Cowlitz County, Washington* by Ted Gruber. This book provides an extensive history of the 45 post offices that have operated in what is now Cowlitz County, Washington. Ted conducted much of his research here at the CCHM, and spent countless hours searching through the Museum's archives while he sourced materials. The book features over 80 historic photographs of the post offices and the areas they served, images of more than 60 envelopes or postcards bearing postmarks from 42 of the 45 post offices, and a postmark catalog documenting and illustrating the 300+ postmarks known from Cowlitz County. The book was written not just for a postal history audience, but for anybody interested in the history of Cowlitz County and southwestern Washington with maps showing the evolution of our region's political boundaries. This locally authored book sells for \$35.00 at the museum gift shop. For more information about this book visit www.cowlitzbook.com.



Museum Director's Message

Continued from Page 2

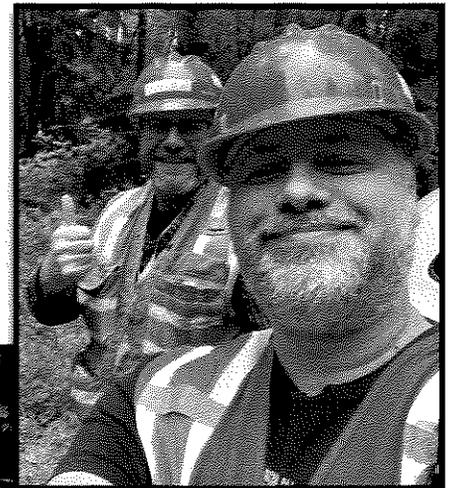
In the world of collections acquisition, the staff participated in surface collection at an archaeological site outside of Kelso. Aircraft wreck remnants from a B-25 bomber affiliated with the "Maury Island Incident" were added to the museum's permanent collection through this work. The aircraft crashed in 1947 with most of the wreckage recovered by the then-new USAF in 1948. We look forward to an upcoming First Thursday program to share what we found and more information about the circumstances and mystery surrounding this story.

As you receive this newsletter, I of course wish to remind you to see us at the Cowlitz County Fair this July 23-26 where we have programs at the Bush Family Cabin on site. You will also notice that we will have replaced the old and rotting roof of the two-cell jail behind the cabin making it a better experience for our visitors. This is an Eagle Scout project managed by Isaac Neves, whom which we are so grateful for his interest. This is a work in progress as of this writing.

Until next time, I wish you an enjoyable summer, and see you at the Fair!

Warm regards,

Joseph Govednik,
Museum Director, Cowlitz County Historical Museum



From The Collections Room

Summer is upon us! Since the last newsletter we have received: an Aerocar stock certificate, Longview School District newsletters, a set of agriculture yearbooks, a Long-Bell padlock, a 1938 re-election card for Sheriff O'Brien, containers of McNess spices, two Beta Sigma Phi scrapbooks, a group of Longview Fibre items, a Long-Bell gravy boat from the St. Helens Inn, and photos of Headquarters Camp, the Jessen family of Stella, and Longview 7th graders in 1927. Another donation received this spring sheds some light on the early operations of the Cowlitz County Public Utility District (P.U.D.).

In April the Stillaguamish Valley Museum in Arlington, WA, sent us a Cowlitz County Public Utility District Annual Report for 1942 (put out in 1943). The ten-page report covers some of the usual financial reporting indicators: income, profit, and loss statements; condensed balance sheet accounts; and a comparison of operating revenue and expense for the years 1941 and 1942. In addition, there is a comparison by year of KWH (kilowatt hours) generated, purchased, sold and number of customers.

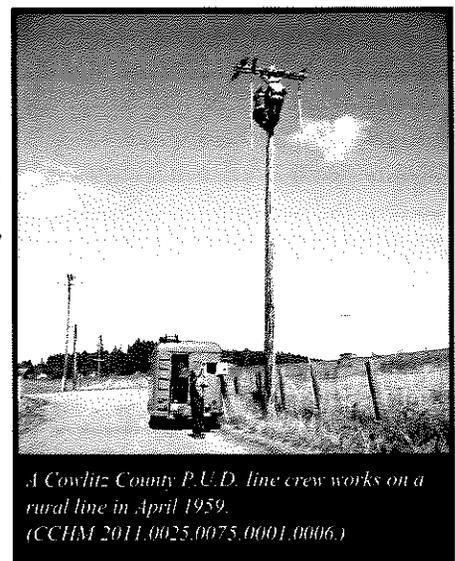
The opening page has pictures of the three elected P.U.D. commissioners, with a brief introduction of each. They were William A. Cardwell of Kalama, James A. Doyle, who lived near Eufaula, and John H. Slade of Castle Rock. Meetings were held at their General Office Building at 1421 14th Avenue in Longview (the building is no longer there).

The organizational blurb on the second page is quite interesting:

"You authorized the creation of your District at the November, 1936 Election and selected Commissioners who through subsequent re-elections are still serving you. The electric properties serving Longview, Ryderwood and adjacent areas were acquired by your District on November 26, 1940. Your District's R.E.A. [Rural Electrification Administration] system serving the rural area was first energized on February 3, 1939. It has been expanded and now comprises three major projects representing an investment of \$225,000.00, totaling 162 miles of lines serving some 650 customers. The total system, including the R.E.A. lines comprises a 33,750 KVA Steam Generating Plant, 36 miles of transmission line, 288 miles of distribution lines serving 6,554 customers. Your District's system is interconnected with the Bonneville Power Administration and Northwestern Electric Company and purchases from and interchanges energy with those systems, making its facilities available for serving vital industries supplying war material in this and other communities."

Included afterwards is an Honor Roll for those employees serving in the armed forces during the first year of the United States' involvement in World War II. Thirteen employees were in service, from various departments, and one, Albert E. Berg of the Line Department, had already died in service. The opening summary ends with the statement that, "1942 has been an unusual year and the operation has been affected by rationing, priorities and other war-time restrictions."

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

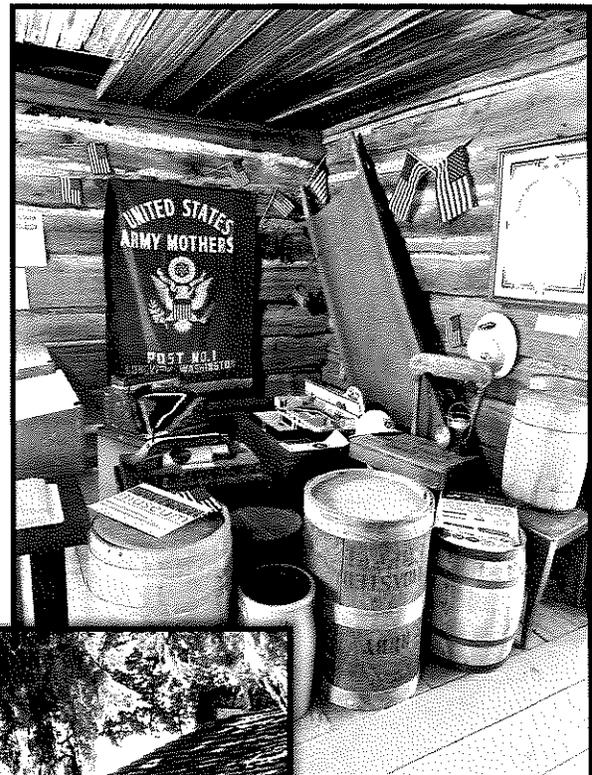


*A Cowlitz County P.U.D. line crew works on a rural line in April 1959.
(CCHM 2011.0025.0075.0001.0006.)*

This year's Cowlitz County Fair Celebrates A Summer of Decades!

Next year America will turn 250 years old! As a warmup for this momentous occasion, the Cowlitz County Fair is honoring "A Summer of Decades" and the Museum is joining in the fun by decorating the log cabin with memories of festivals throughout Cowlitz County's history. From the Kalama Strawberry Festival to Longview's Rolleo, to Kelso's Highlander Festival and more, there will be a lot to celebrate this year! 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 23 to Saturday, July 26 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!



2024 Annual Fund Drive Donors

COLUMBIA (\$1000 and over)

Collins Holding Company
Robert Chace
Charles and Cheryl Davison
Jerry and Huong Kelly
John Natt
Jane Pence

COWLITZ (\$500 - \$999)

James Baker
Phyllis Cavens
Bud and Elaine Cockrell
Columbian Artists Association
Robert and Barbara Danielson
Bruce Eyer
David and Janet Freece
Ken Glibert
Arne Mortensen
Pete and Karen Pickett
Stephen and Sharon Shope
Dennis Weber and
Kris McElroy-Weber

LEWIS (\$250 - \$499)

Lesley Bombardier
Booth & Davis & Associates PLLC
Edwin Brown
Lois Brudi-Conrod
Diane Dick
Bob and Georgeann Gaston
Joseph and Erin Govednik
Tom Gunn
Kelso Business and Community
Association
Scott Luhn
John and Pauly McClelland
Carol McRae
Jarl and Kay Opgrande
Dr. P.J. Peterson

William Reade
John and Shirley Simpson
Andre Stepankowsky
Mary VanSickle
Richard Woods

KALAMA (\$100 - \$249)

Alex and Marnee Alexander
Altrusa Int'l of Longview-Kelso
Larry and Veryl Anderson
Bob Argle
Amy Baker & Dave Spurgeon
Bill Berry
John Boatman
William and Joan Boatman
Wade and Beth Boyd
Susan Cunningham
Bonner M. Cutting
Rick Davey
Scott and Linda Davis
David and Pamela Eikrem
Jim and Idie Elliott
Joseph F. and Margaret W.
Govednik
Ted and Diana Gruber
Sandy and Mike Haas
Robert and Jill Hall
Steve and Ann Hanson
Steve Harvey
Ted and Marilyn Herold
Ray and Bonnie Kahler
Darci and Bryan Klinginsmith
Mark Kuelsch
Sarah Koss
Steve and Jayne Lafady
Vincent and Susan Lee
Hal Mahnke
Don and Diane Manasco
Mark and Theresa McCrady
Carl McCrary

Larry and Karen Peterson
Mike Phillips
Edward Phillips and Laurel Mur-
phy
Lloyd and Myrna Raff
Mel Nelson and Donna Rolfe
Thomas and Myrna Stecker
Randy and Sheli Sweet
Blaine Tolby
Maryanne Wainwright
Juanita Wasser
Ebby Williams

TOUTLE (up to \$99)

Fred and Janet Amrine
Janet Anderson
Dr. Bruce Austra
Robert Baldwin
Charles and Karen Bergquist
Maynard Brent
Brian Davern
Don Denzinger
Terry Faw
Darlene Goodman
Robert Guide
David and Nancy Harris
Donna Hilton
Teri and Mike Karnofski
Bill and Donna Kasch
Marie LaFave
Jeanne O'Connor
Tom Paulu
Lynn Peterson
Lisa Day and R.E. Sandstrom
Dick and Edith Uthmann

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: <input type="checkbox"/> Yourself <input type="checkbox"/> 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 2025

July 23rd – 26th: Fair! See you at the Bush Family Log Cabin

September 4th at 7pm: First Thursday

October 2nd at 7pm: First Thursday



COWLITZCOUNTYHISTORICALMUSEUM



405 ALLEN STREET
KELSO, WA 98626

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