



## November 2025

### Page 2

*Historical Society  
President's Message*

*Museum Director's  
Message*

### Page 3

*Continued - Museum  
Director's Message*

*Books and Classic  
Toys Available Just in  
Time for the Holidays*

### Page 4

*From the Collections  
Room*

### Page 5

*Eagle Scout  
Rehabilitation Project*

*New Years Around  
the World at Winter  
Festival 2025*

### Page 6

*Its New Year's  
Around the World at  
Winter Festival*

### Page 7

*Gift Membership  
Form*

### Page 8

*Calendar of Events*

## Everyone had a Grand Ol' Time at Fair!

The Cowlitz County Fair hosted "A Summer of Decades" this year and the Museum joined in by decorating the log cabin with displays on several festivals throughout Cowlitz County's history such as the Kalama Strawberry Festival, Longview's Rolleo, Kelso's Highlander Festival and, of course, the Fair and Rodeo. The craft this year was paper head-band hats reminiscent of children's 4th of July hats in the late 1800s. Even more recent festivals such as Squirrel Fest and sQuatch Fest got honorable mentions. The Children's Discovery Museum lent us their life-sized Lincoln logs for kids to build mini-log cabins. The Cowlitz Valley Old Time Music Association came and played on Thursday, the Home Arts department held a bake-off judging at the cabin on Friday, and the Historic Preservation Commission joined us every day. The Ladies of the Lake Quilt Guild made and donated a beautiful quilt for us this year that we held a silent auction for as a fundraiser. The Quilt Guild has offered to make us another one next year, so keep an eye out for it. With so much offered, fair was a grand ol' time for all! Thank you very much to everyone who volunteered at the log cabin during fair!



*Nora and Ryleigh having fun on the stilts*



*Building a log cabin*

## 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

The rain and wind outside my window is intense today. Meteorologists are calling it an “atmospheric river”. Watching a small flock of ducks struggle against the sideways rain, I am reminded of how the famous explorer, Lt. William Clark, described the area that would later become Southwest Washington. On November 5, 1805, he lamented, “we are all wet Cold and disagreeable, rain Continues & increases [sic]”. Lt. Clark also complained numerous times that the noise from the local waterfowl disturbed his sleep.



While waterfowl in our region today are much less plentiful, we can always count on autumn to bring that requisite moisture that keeps our land green. It is a rhythm sustained since time immemorial.

As the close of 2025 approaches, it is also a time to reflect on the amazing year it has been for the museum Historical Society. One highlight was the antique jail preservation project, coordinated by Eagle Scout candidate Issac Neves and other volunteers. This project provided a much-needed roof and protective paint for the original Cowlitz County Jail. From the Bunker Hill Cemetery Tour to the recovery of artifacts from the 1947 crash of a B-25 airplane near Kelso, this year was packed with activity.

As is proper, I want to take this opportunity to thank our amazing members, donors, and staff. Without all of you, we would not be able to continue to fulfill our mission.

Thank you!

Lee Kessler,  
CCHS President

## Museum Director's Message

Dear Friends,

Autumn is here, the trees are turning beautiful colors, bringing us to the ephemeral time where we have great beauty, prior to the darkness approaching that is winter. Winter is what I call “Museum Season” here in Western Washington as it’s a great time to visit museums and step out of the rain for which this region is famous for. Our Annual Fund Drive started last month and we express our deepest appreciation to those who have already contributed to this effort. Our Annual Fund Drive is essential in supporting museum operations and delivering quality programming to our community, especially our Traveling Trunk school program which complements area schools by providing local history curriculum to students in our community. During last school year we accomplished greater outreach and success with the popular Traveling Trunk school program which brought local history to nearly 1,500 children. Our education programs are tracking just as strong for this upcoming year, and we couldn’t do this without your support – Thank You from all of us at the Museum.



*Continued on Next Page*

# Museum Director's Message

*Continued from Previous Page*

Over the summer our historic jail at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds was given a much-needed rehabilitation as part of an Eagle Scout project (Story on Page 5). Be sure to mark your calendar for December 7 for our annual Winter Festival which is offered as a free event for families and children to celebrate the season. As this year begins to wind down, we look forward to next year and the Museum's participation in America 250. The Museum and County are both America 250 Statewide partners with the Washington State Historical Society. We look forward to sharing new exhibits and programming related to this milestone in our evolving American story. Be sure to come see the current temporary exhibit, Browsing the Stacks, before it comes down this winter to make room for our next exhibit for America 250. In closing I wish you all a Happy Holiday Season and all the best in the new year to come.

Warm regards,

Joseph Govednik,  
Museum Director, Cowlitz County Historical Museum

## Books and Classic Toys Available Just in Time for the Holidays

Looking for some unique Christmas gifts this year? Our Museum Store has a wide selection of local history books and toys from yesteryears. For the small-town enthusiast, we recommend Ted Gruber's book "Postal History of Cowlitz County, Washington" which is the most comprehensive look at this aspect of our history yet written. Postal history is surprisingly one of the best ways to get to know all the little communities in an area that were absorbed into larger municipalities. One of our most amusing and enjoyable books in the store is "Bright Eyes, Bushy Tail, and the Nutty Narrows Bridge" by Donna Howard, a children's book about our own local squirrel bridge! The Stella Historical Society has released Volume III of their "History of Stella" series. This book proudly proclaims, "The stories, poems, and articles in this book span the years from 'way back when,' to just a few days ago. Enjoy!" From the Columbia River Reader Press we carry "The Tidewater Reach: Field Guide to the Lower Columbia River in Poems and Pictures" by Robert Michael Pyle and Judy VanderMaten. This is a unique field guide that evokes, "a different way of seeing" and includes original woodcut art by Debby Neely. For a full book of her art, both visual and literary, we have Debby Neely's "Words and Wood" with her northwest woodcuts and haikus. Widening the lens to include communities just south of Cowlitz County, we have Peter Marsh's book "Liberty Factory: The untold story of Henry Kaiser's Oregon Shipyards" about the World War II home front effort in our own backyard. Other local books include "Whistles: The Story of the Longview Fiber Company," the Images of America Series books such as "Kelso," "Longview," "Kalama," "Castle Rock," and more.

For youngsters, both in age and in heart, we have a wide range

of classic toys including tops, jump ropes, slinkies, and kaleidoscopes. For the musically inclined we have harmonicas, kazoos, and slide whistles. Some of the kid-favorite toys we carry include Jacob's Ladders – the pioneer era "tumbling block" toy, flip sticks – a new take on the ubiquitous cup-and-ball toy, and punch balls – the 1940s era balloon toy. If you are looking for a STEM toy, we have Steel Works build-it-yourself sets with mini car, airplane, and helicopter sets, as well as a larger 5-in-1 set which can be made into a motorcycle, robot, tractor, trike, or drag racer. We also have Stacking Robots which are wooden "robot" blocks that can be stacked in a variety of ways to teach kids about building and balancing principles. We even have Corps of Discovery dolls including Meriwether Lewis, William Clark, Sacajawea with her baby Jean Baptiste, and York. If you are looking for a little Christmas Cheer, we have seasonal adult and children's coloring books, a book of carols, "The Nutcracker" paper doll and crochet books, "The Night Before Christmas" story book and coloring book, a wide assortment of sticker books, and more. These and many other wonderful local history books make the Museum a great place for holiday shopping. Don't forget about gift memberships to the Museum. It's a gift that continues to give all year long with our Historical Quarterlies, newsletters, and 10% off in the museum store. Happy Holidays!



# From The Collections Room

Summertime was busy for Collections, with many items arriving over the last several months. Since the last newsletter we have received: a complete set of “You and I” magazines put out by the Imus family in the 1940s; some “Log of Long-Bell” issues and Longview Silver Jubilee tokens; a late 1980s Longview business map; two small groups of newspapers; a pair of roller skates with their case; a Long-Bell mustard pot; a Lewis & Clark Exposition (1905) ticket booklet; some receipts from Peters’ store in Kelso (1922); a complete set of Ryderwood community directories (post-Long-Bell era) along with a CD of Ryderwood songs; files and photos of Longview’s Japanese exchange student/homestay program, 1988-2006; some Quoidbach Construction drafting equipment; a homemade fish club; local Pacific Telephone & Telegraph lineman tools; and two issues of “Campus Clippings”, student writings from R. A. Long students in 1950 and 1953. Photo donations included a small group of the 3rd Allen Street Bridge prior to demolition and a group of the Longview Experimental Farm at the foot of Mt. Solo in the 1920s and ‘30s.

Ever since the Kelsonian Tribune ceased publication in the 1950s there have been several attempts to restart a Kelso newspaper to compete with The Daily News. One of the above-mentioned groups of newspapers contained eight issues of one of those attempts, a short-lived weekly newspaper which I had never heard of. The issues, volumes 3 to 13 (non-consecutive) span between May and July of 1970. They also had a hard time sticking with a name. They started out as the Reporter (Voice of Kelso), then changed to The Evergreen for a few issues before becoming The Evergreen Reporter.

Each issue had standard offerings, such as vital statistics, police blotter, editorials, society pages, club news, local sports, and a Kelso City Council report. Later issues also included a “Living” section with feature stories such as the history of Tam O’Shanter Park with a photo spread of Little League teams.

The Evergreen Reporter was started by local entrepreneur Jack Malone, who found it hard for his upstart paper to gain traction, or even maintain office

space. One of the issues has on the front page a call out looking for a larger building space for their offices. The article states, “[w]e are currently jammed into less than 500 square feet of space and new equipment will start arriving in a few weeks. The darkroom is located in one of the staffer’s kitchens and several of the reporters have to go home to write their stories.”

One of those reporters was none other than Longview’s own Dennis Weber. When contacted about these new additions to our collection, he said, “I had forgotten about being “Youth Editor” the summer after I graduated from high school. ... My graduation speech was reprinted in [an] edition of the Evergreen. But at ten cents an issue and virtually no ads, it had failed before summer’s end.”

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.



Longview Business Map  
(2025.0024.0001)

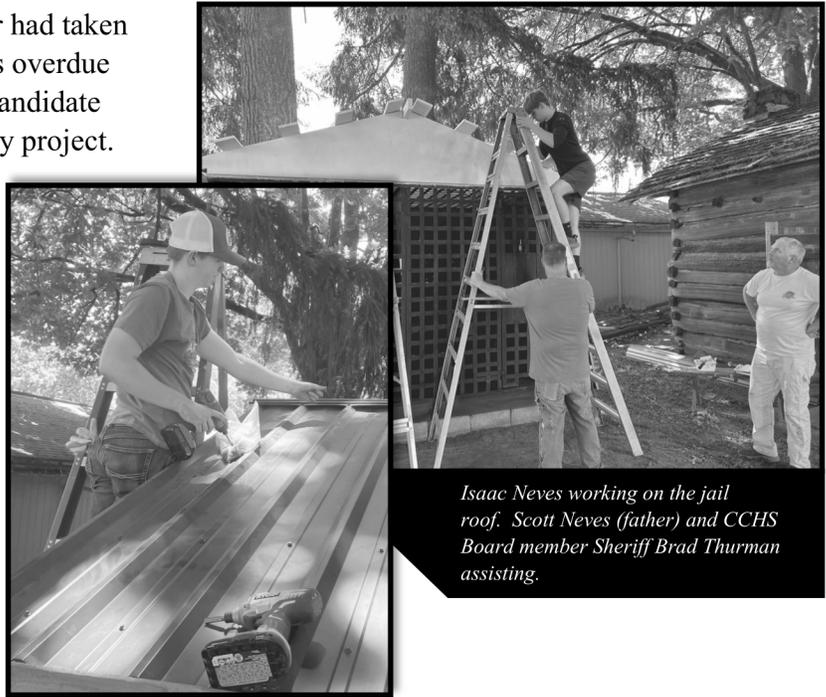


Ramona’s Roller Skates  
(2025.0026.0001)

# Eagle Scout Rehabilitation Project

The historic jail at the Cowlitz County Fairgrounds is a feature visitors to the County Fair enjoy seeing and always engages us with questions (particularly about how small it is!). This double-cell jail was originally used as a holding cell at the courthouse in Kalama, back when it was the county seat. It was relocated to an outside location decades ago and a roof was installed to protect it from the elements. Years of weather had taken its toll on the roof and jail structure, and it was overdue for some attention. Thankfully, Eagle Scout candidate Isaac Neves selected our jail for his community project. Isaac coordinated this effort with the assistance of volunteers and donated materials. We are grateful for local businesses Baker Lumber and Steelscape for donating the construction materials for this project, Jim Peters for the metal flooring, and Cowlitz County for providing the forklift to remove the old roof. We are grateful for volunteers Scott Neves, Jim Peters, and the scouts from Troop 33 for their time and labor. CCHS Board members Dean Takko, Brad Thurman, and Lee Kessler also volunteered their time and expertise to construct the new roof and prep and repaint the metal structure to

preserve this piece of history for years to come. We look forward to incorporating the jail in future museum programming at the next Cowlitz County Fair. Thank you, Isaac, for choosing the CCHM for your community project and congratulations on your accomplishment of Eagle Scout!



*Isaac Neves working on the jail roof. Scott Neves (father) and CCHS Board member Sheriff Brad Thurman assisting.*

# New Years Around the World at Winter Festival 2025

Staying up until midnight to welcome January 1 might be the most observed celebration worldwide but there are lots of other New Years around the world, each with their own unique traditions. We'll explore some of the better-known days, and a few more obscure ones, at Winter Festival this year on Sunday, December 7th from noon to 4pm. From Chinese New Year, Rosh Hashanah, and Diwali to Nowruz, Songkran, and Hijri, there are so many wonderful New Year's traditions to discover all around the world. Join us at the Museum as we learn through crafts, games, and fun how these and many other New Year holidays are celebrated. As always, the Storytellers Network and the Lower Columbia Woodcarvers will be sharing their holiday tales and wonderful carvings with visitors again this year. So mark your calendars for Sunday, December 7th and join the fun at our Winter Festival open house from 12:00 pm until 4:00 pm. The event is free, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Be sure not to miss it!





# It's New Year's Around the World at Winter Festival

Sunday, December 7<sup>th</sup> , Open House: Noon to 4pm  
Cowlitz County Historical Museum -405 Allen At. Kelso, WA

Staying up until midnight to welcome January 1 might be the most observed celebration worldwide but there are lots of other New Years around the world, each with their own unique traditions. We'll explore some of the better-known days, such as Chinese New Year, and a few more obscure ones, like Nowruz, at Winter Festival this year

- Join us at the Museum as we learn through crafts, games, and fun how these and many other New Year holidays are celebrated.
- The Storytellers Network will be sharing their holiday tales.
- The Lower Columbia Woodcarvers will show their wonderful carvings.
- For more information contact the Cowlitz County Historical Museum at 360-577-3119.



All events activities are free and open to the public,  
but children must be accompanied by an adult.

# 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

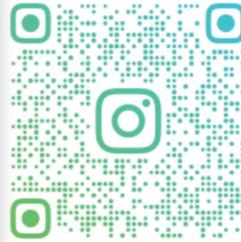
## Calendar of Events – Summer/Fall 2025

**December 7<sup>th</sup> from 12pm to 4pm:** “Winter Festival” – Free Open House Family Event

**January 8<sup>th</sup>:** First Thursday program “Staff Picks from the Collections”

**Winter 2026:** America 250 Exhibit Opens

*Follow us!*



COWLITZCOUNTYHISTORICALMUSEUM



405 ALLEN STREET  
KELSO, WA 98626

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