

Original Wasco County Courthouse

Spring Newsletter 2016



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Sandy Bisset

Vice President: Karl Vercouteren

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1859

WEBSITE

www.OriginalWascoCountyCourthouse.org/

EMAIL

OriginalCourthouse@gmail.com

FACEBOOK

Find us on Facebook
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Original Wasco County Courthouse

410 West 2nd Place

PO Box 839

The Dalles, Oregon
97058

541-296-8672

Located behind The Dalles Area
Chamber of Commerce and Visitors/
Center, in Trevitt's Historic District

National Register of Historic Places

State of Oregon Historic Landmark

The Original Wasco County
Courthouse Preservation
Corporation is a 501(c)3 non-profit
organization.

MEMBER

Oregon Museum Association

The Dalles Area
Chamber of Commerce

Partner organization
Oregon Cultural Trust

Charm Trail Participant

THOMAS CONDON—OF FAITH & FOSSILS

Friday, February 12th

Columbia Gorge Discovery Center

See page 3 for details

REGIONAL HISTORY

FORUM SERIES

Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. in the upstairs Courtroom
of the Original Wasco County Courthouse

No admission charge

Donations welcome

See page 2 for schedule

ELECTRONICS UPGRADE

We are in the process of installing a brand new sound
system. Your listening experience at the
February Forums should be much richer.



ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE REGIONAL HISTORY FORUM SERIES FOR 2016



Saturday, February 6

Rev. Henry K.W. Perkins: Forgotten Wascopam Missionary
Robert Boyd's program was a "hit" at last June's Discovery Center presentation and is well-worth a repeat. Dr. Boyd is author of "People of The Dalles: the Indians of the Wascopam Mission" and other titles dealing with Northwest Indian heritage.

Saturday, February 13

The Dufur Mattress Factory: Cotton Mattresses to Make or Buy
The Department of Agriculture found several solutions to a bumper cotton crop without a market during World War II. Local historian *Sandy Bisset* has come across interesting information and photos about a humble but welcomed household item produced right here in Wasco County under the auspices of the local OSU Extension Service office and facilitated by the local Granges.

Saturday, February 20

Becoming Oregon: From the Lewis and Clark Expedition to the Lewis and Clark Exposition
West Linn educator Robert Hamm is remembered for his 2006 Regional History Forum program "Mapping the West." His new book and this PowerPoint presentation draw upon his personal collection of historic newspapers and trace Oregon's formative years.

Saturday, February 27

Fairs, Rodeos, and Fort Dalles Riders
Linda Wilson follows up her 2013 program on women in rodeo competition with a look at the history of local horsemanship, exercised in rodeos and promoted by the Riders.

Coffee and cookies will be served.

Become a member of Original Courthouse – help preserve local history!

OPB Presents an Advance Screening
of Oregon Experience's

Thomas Condon OF FAITH AND FOSSILS

Frontier preacher and pioneer geologist, Thomas Condon was the first to recognize the scientific significance of the John Day Fossil Beds. He would devote his life to teaching and educating others about Oregon's ancient past.



Friday, February 12 at 7 p.m.
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum,
5000 Discovery Dr., The Dalles, OR
FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Optional \$15 dinner at 6 p.m.
Hosted by the Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum
Seating is limited for the screening and the dinner.

Please RSVP for both by February 10
541.296.8600 ext. 201 or www.gorgediscovery.org



Thomas Condon: Of Faith and Fossils airs February 22 at 9 p.m. on OPB TV and at watch.opb.org.

Photo: The Oregon
Historical Society



OPB FILMS AT ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE

One day last Fall an Oregon Public Broadcasting crew descended on the Original Courthouse and spent most of the day here. They were working on an Oregon Experience segment featuring pioneer minister and geologist Thomas Condon. Reverend Condon came to The Dalles as a Congregational Missionary in about 1860, and first preached in the upstairs Courtroom of the Courthouse. About this time Fort Dalles soldiers had discovered fossils in the John Day area while on patrol. Condon soon went with them to investigate. The Peabody Museum at Yale University became interested in the area that eventually became the John Day Fossil Beds. In the meantime, Thomas Condon was named the first State Geologist for Oregon, became a Geology professor at the University of Oregon, and was memorialized in their Geology building, Condon Hall.

For The Dalles segment, Karl Ver-couteren and Sandy Bisset were interviewed, the inside of the building was videotaped, and Fort Dalles Floozies and Friends were filmed in their Sunday best.

Join us at the Discovery Center for the Advance Screening of the program on Friday, February 12th at 7:00 PM. There is no charge; however, the optional meal prior to the program is \$15.00. Reservations are required.

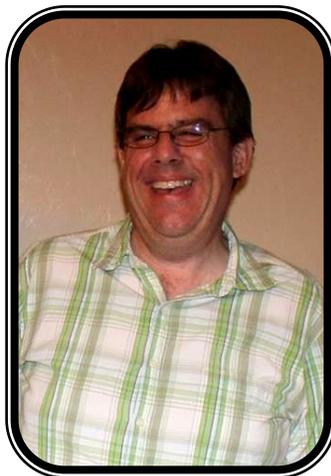
If you miss the program, Thomas Condon, of Faith and Fossils will air on OPB on February 22nd at 9:00 PM and can also be seen on OPB TV at watch.opb.org

IN MEMORIAM

Patrick Linvill Ellis

1964-2015

Friend and Docent for Original
Wasco County Courthouse
Our hearts are heavy at the loss of a
wonderful man who always had a smile
for everyone and shared his love
of local history.



THANK YOU PAUL TEWS

It is with regret that the Board of Directors has accepted Paul Tews resignation this past year. He has long been a good leader, hard worker, and inspiration to us all. Karl Vercooteren notes that when Paul retired from wheat ranching in Morrow County and moved to The Dalles, he soon became active with the Original Courthouse. He served on the building committee for the last move of the building in 1996 along with Walt Ericksen and Vern Tenneson. The photo to the right shows Paul with then OWCC President Karl Vercooteren joining Wasco County Judge John Mabrey in cutting the ribbon for the grand re-opening of the building at its new site on West 2nd

Place. Paul took over as President and served in that capacity through much of the first decade of the 2000's. until he handed it off to Sandy Bisset in 2009. He continued on the Board after that and was the turn-to-person for building upkeep and maintenance—and



anything else that need to be done. Paul joins long time Board members Marilyn Erickson and Jacob Kaser in being honored as an Honorary Member of the Original Wasco County Courthouse.

Thank you Paul for the past twenty years of service and friendship.

PRESS RELEASE Annual Fort Dalles Days Event on Hiatus

Date: January 8, 2016
From: Fort Dalles Days
Steering Committee

Members: Maggie Wood (Columbia Gorge Insurance), Damon Hulit (Fort Dalles Rodeo Association), Matthew Klebes (The Dalles Main Street), Susan Buce (Columbia Gorge Discovery Center), Bill Nielsen (Gorge Radio-Bicoastal Media), Johna LaRoque (Route 30 Bottles and Brews) Cal McDermid (Fort Dalles Museum/Anderson Homestead)

The Fort Dalles Days Steering Committee met in December 2015 and voted to temporarily discontinue the summer event Fort Dalles Days. The Fort Dalles Rodeo Association announced in August 2015, due to the sale of the rodeo grounds in west The Dalles, they would suspend plans for the Fort Dalles Days Rodeo while seeking space in the Mid-Columbia area on which to build new rodeo facilities. Once the next Fort Dalles Rodeo is on the calendar there will be a

call for people to meet and plan a new Fort Dalles Days Event.

Steering Committee chair, Maggie Wood, said, "We thank everyone whose sponsorship made the event possible and the many, many people who worked at or attended the many events over the years."

The Fort Dalles Rodeo Association combined with the former Historic The Dalles Days and Jammin' July organizations in 2010. The combined events came together to provide daytime events during rodeo week, while the rodeo provided an anchor event for the evenings. Jammin' July, once operated by the Downtown Merchants Association, was brought under the umbrella of The Dalles Main Street in 2013.

The Dalles Main Street is evaluating its major events during 2016. Their goal is to make sure these events are helping to accomplish Main Street's mission of making downtown a vibrant place to live, shop, work and play. In particular, they will be examining the role of street fairs in light of other summer events.

The Main Street Board of Directors also hopes to identify a new promotion committee chair and volunteers to help accomplish event-related goals. To volunteer, please contact Matthew Klebes, Main Street Director, at [541-370-2966](tel:541-370-2966) or tdmainstreet@gorge.net.

THE CASE OF THE MISSING ARBORVITAE

Admittedly, I read too much Agatha Christie but I'm sure many of you have driven past the Original Courthouse and stopped short at the bare look of the building's west side. In a nutshell, last Fall the house west of us was sold and is being restored. The property line was identified and we found that our overgrown shrubbery not only impacted our handicapped entrance but crossed the property line. The Board knew that the dry interior of the arborvitae and the juniper behind were a fire hazard. Being the custodians of a historic "stick built" building, we took this project very seriously.



We hired Columbia Tree Service to remove all shrubbery on the west side of the building and grind the roots. We knew this process would damage the sprinkler system. Today's Rays will restore the sprinkler system next Spring. We intend to replace the arborvitae with something historic in nature, and size appropriate.

Our Thanks to Kris Zorza and his crew at Columbia Tree Service for doing a great job, including clean up.

HANDICAPPED ACCESSIBILITY

As part of our commitment to handicapped accessibility a curb cut was created in line with our handicapped entry ramp. This allows easier access to the entrance from the street. Please do not park in front of it.

We also have created a way to get wheel chairs and scooters over the doorway threshold to our building. Ask us and we can set it up in a short time.

We also have a downstairs television link to enable viewing of upstairs programs.

NEW LOOK FOR HOUSE NEXT DOOR



The construction crew at 412 West 2nd Place have been working on the inside of the house all winter. They have recently erected a period fence, and will tackle painting and landscaping when the weather allows. This restoration will really add to the historic appeal of the neighborhood.

THE PAINTERS BRUSH

Twenty years ago Terray Harmon first painted the Original Courthouse inside and out. This year he was back on the job, color matching the original shades, and giving a fresh new look. Our thanks to Terray, his son and partner Corey Harmon, and their crew for making our building look great.



Terray Harmon Painting and Paper Hanging crew finishing details on the front of the Original Courthouse, early Spring 2015

PUZZLE #1

Fort Dalles Museum has an antique, cast iron book or letter press in its collection that has a modern label on it stating “Book Press used in Old Courthouse.” The documentation does not shed light on its origin. If you have some knowledge of this item please contact Cal McDermid, Museum Director at Fort Dalles Museum, or email FortDallesMuseum@gmail.com.



While doing a rock art survey for the Smithsonian at Roosevelt, Washington in 1927, ethnologist Herbert Kruger identified the example below as anthropologically valuable. The original petroglyph is now displayed at Horsethief State Park. Near Dallesport.



WHERE HAVE I SEEN THIS

A rubbing of this petroglyph, hangs in the stairwell of the Original Courthouse. It wasn't until recently that we discovered the back story and the location of the original. With recent preservation guidelines in place it would no longer be possible to do this rubbing.



WHAT'S THIS

This is the original 1859 flooring in the upstairs Courtroom complete with square nails. The boards were milled at Jonas Mosier's mill on Mosier Creek and barged upstream the fifteen miles to the Courthouse site.

BICENTENNIAL MEDALLIONS



Created by the Original Courthouse in 1976 to commemorate the restoration of the Courthouse and our country's 200th birthday. Available in a plexi-glas case for \$3.00 and in an informational card for \$4.00 at our Museum Store.

PUZZLE #2



From 1975-1995 the Original Courthouse sat between the Chamber of Commerce building and Mill Creek. It functioned as the Tourist Information Center for the Chamber. This large wooden sign was located to the front of the building and is prominently visible in period pictures. In 1996 when the building was moved to its current location, the sign was not re-erected. We don't know what happened to it. It has been suggested that it was a victim of the 1996 flood, but it is more likely that someone stored it in a safe place. If you know anything about what happened to the sign please contact Sandy Bisset at 541-298-1240 or wildflowers@gorge.net.

AMERICAN EMPRESS “HOP ON HOP OFF” TOUR DESTINATION COURTHOUSE



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

This will be the third year that the Original Wasco County Courthouse has been invited to participate in the American Empress “Hop On—Hop Off” bus tour of The Dalles. Other participants are Columbia Gorge Discovery Center, The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce, Fort Dalles Museum and Anderson Homestead, and Sunshine Mill Winery.

The 2016 tour season begins on March 23rd and ends on November 24th with 35 separate weekly stops in The Dalles. After two initial voyages, they will be in The Dalles on alternate Tuesdays and Thursdays, with tours from 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. on Thursdays. In addition to walking or riding the bus, our visitors occasion-



ally arrive by horse and carriage with our own Carrie Swearingen at the reins.

In 2015 23 had 764 visitors from the American Empress over 28 port visits by the ship, from April 17th through November 11th.

If you love history and have a little spare time this Spring and Summer let us know. We are looking for volunteer docents to “courthouse sit” and interact with our visitors. We will train you and work with you to make this a fun and educational experience for all. Contact us by phone or email. [details are on front page] Thank you to our current volunteers Lynn Cotter and Darcy Long-Curtiss who have truly made a difference.

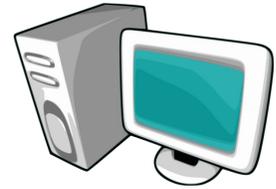
WEBSITE

EMAIL

FACEBOOK

WIFI

WOW!

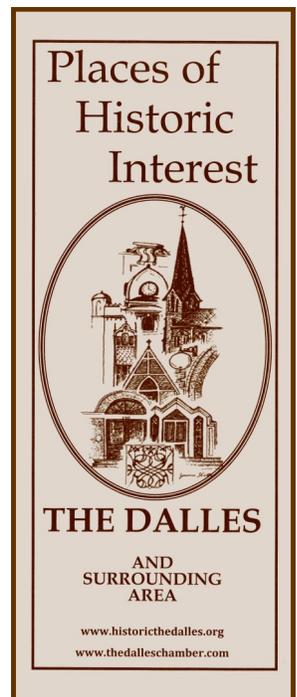


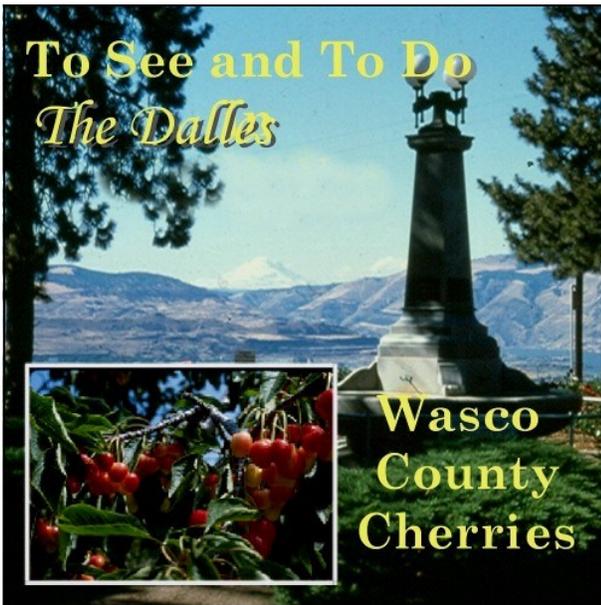
Board member Trish Neal has patiently guided us into 21st Century technology. We now have our own website, an email address, and as most of you know, a Facebook Page. Oh, and we even have a telephone with voicemail. See page one of this newsletter for all access details.

We will soon have a dedicated WiFi network available for office use and for our patrons.

PLACES OF HISTORIC INTEREST

This brochure was created a couple of years ago by the self named “Three Crazy History Ladies” [Mary Davis, Trish Neal, and Sandy Bisset] as a tourism aid, to be distributed throughout the area at no charge. Ten thousand copies were printed using hotel/motel tax (TRT) monies, dispersed through a grant application process by The Dalles Area Chamber of Commerce. And most have been distributed. As we gear up for the coming tourist season, we are investigating funding sources for re-printing. In the meantime, several hundred brochures remain available for distribution.





FREE WITH YOUR 2016 MEMBERSHIP*

This video *To See and To Do in The Dalles and Wasco County Cherries* was a joint Chamber of Commerce and Original Courthouse slide-tape presentation in the 1970's. It has recently been re-mastered to DVD format, and is yours as a thank you for becoming a 2016 Original Courthouse Member. It contains some beautiful scenery and a peek at what The Dalles looked like 40 years ago. It's fun to see how The Dalles has changed - and how it hasn't. If you have paid your 2016 dues a copy has your name on it.

*limited number available

CHARM TRAIL




Don't forget we have charms for your Charm Trail bracelet. Get an authentic pewter Sheriff's Badge and Jail Key for \$1.50 each. Available in our Museum Store

2016 MEMBERSHIP

Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. Please renew and continue being part of our local heritage. Ask a friend to join and help us exceed last year's membership.

WHY WE WOULD LIKE YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS

Each newsletter we can send by email saves the organization money in postage and printing. This savings allows to send out newsletters and announcements, more frequently. If you receive your newsletter by email you will be treated to full color photographs and graphics. In addition with a few keystrokes you will be able to send it on to friends. Those of you without email, please don't worry. We will continue to send the same information to you by snail mail.

**ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION CORPORATION
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

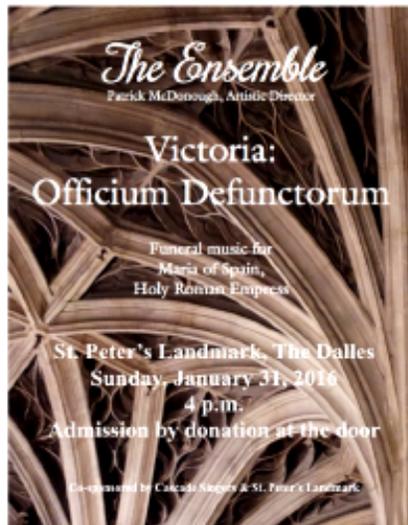
The Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation is a Federally designated 501(C)3 non-profit organization. As such your donations and membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

<p>MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION</p> <p>NAME: _____</p> <p>MAILING ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>CITY: _____</p> <p>STATE: _____ ZIPCODE: _____</p> <p>TELEPHONE : _____</p> <p>EMAIL ADDRESS: _____</p> <p>Please mail this form and your check to Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation PO Box 839 - The Dalles, OR 97058</p>	<p>MEMBERSHIP LEVEL <i>Please check appropriate box</i></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 15.00 Individual</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25.00 Family</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$ 40.00 Sustaining</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$100.00 Patron</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ additional donation</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> \$_____ donation in memory or honor of _____</p>
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Oregon Cultural Trust Partner Organization

Please Patronize our History Partners



The Ensemble of Oregon under the direction of Patrick McDonough, will present “Officium Defunctorum: Funeral Music for Maria of Spain, Holy Roman Empress” Sunday, January 31, 2016, in a 4 p.m. concert at St. Peter’s Landmark in The Dalles.

The concert is co-sponsored by Cascade Singers and St. Peter’s Landmark. Admission is by donation at the door.

The Ensemble is a professional vocal and instrumental chamber ensemble, based in the Portland area, equally at home tackling early music and modern works. Members share their talents with other well-known groups and events such as Portland Baroque Orchestra, Dale Warland Singers, Cantores in Ecclesia, Cappella Romana, the

William Byrd Festival, and the Oregon Bach Festival.

The Spanish city of Avila produced two famous children: St. Teresa and Tomás Luis de Victoria, born there in 1548. Trained as a chorister in his home town, Victoria traveled to Rome in his late teens to pursue a career as a professional musician. He was a contemporary and colleague of Palestrina. In his mid-thirties he dedicated a book of masses to King Philip II of Spain with the hint that he wanted to return to his native country. In the 1580s Victoria became composer and director of music at a convent in Madrid where he remained for the rest of his life. Some of his most radiant compositions were written during his later years.

The concert is built around Victoria’s six-voice setting of the “Officium Defunctorum,” the traditional services for the dead. It was composed as a memorial for Empress Maria of Austria, King Philip’s sister, who had retired back to Madrid after an illustrious political career as a Habsburg empress and patron of music. Her death in 1603 was commemorated all across Europe with lavish displays of music, poetry, and public mourning.

The music offered by the Ensemble would originally have been sung during a long series of services, starting with Matins before dawn and stretching on into the day. Victoria used traditional Gregorian chant, which is almost always present in one of the six voices, upon which he built his polyphonic compositions. Unlike later romantic era Requiems, this funeral music has surprisingly little fire and brimstone, opting instead for a tone of hope and serene contemplation.

St. Peter’s Landmark, with its gothic vaulted, tinwork-clad ceiling, will provide a welcoming acoustic for this landmark music of the high Renaissance.

Continued from page 7—American Empress

Most of us who act as hosts for the tour boats have an incomplete knowledge of what touring the Columbia River encompasses, and except for a lucky few, most of us have not been on one of the boats. The following internet link will give you information about the American Queen Steamboat Company and the American Empress tours of the Columbia River: http://www.americanqueensteamboatcompany.com/aqsc/media/Design/Brochures/PDF/2016_AE-Slim-Jim_V2_WEB.pdf The downloadable brochure is very interesting..

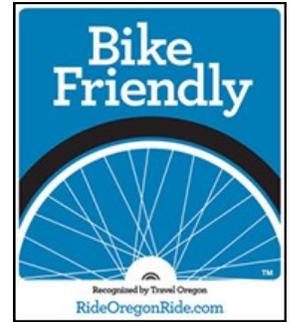
Original Wasco County Courthouse Video Collection

These programs have been remastered from the original 1970's era slide/tape presentations, created for and presented by the Original Wasco County Courthouse.

Order them individually at \$20 apiece, or buy the entire set for \$80, a savings of \$20. Proceeds from sales of these videos help support the preservation of the Original Courthouse. Available at the Original Courthouse Museum Store.



The Original Wasco County Courthouse has achieved a Bike Friendly designation through Travel Oregon. We have committed to provide drinking water, WiFi access, Phone charging capability, and a bike rack for our bicycling patrons. In return we receive recognition in Oregon bicycling brochures and websites. And additional visitors.



MISSION STATEMENT

ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE

The Mission of the Original Courthouse Preservation Corporation is to:

- **PRESERVE** the Original Wasco County Courthouse;
- **COLLECT, EXHIBIT, and INTERPRET** items related to the governmental/legal history of Wasco County;
- provide a venue for **PRESENTATIONS** of local historical interest;
- **preserve and make available** relevant **EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH MATERIALS**.

Original Wasco County Courthouse

PO Box 839

The Dalles, Oregon 97058