



MISSION STATEMENT

It is the mission of the Original Wasco County Courthouse Preservation Corporation to Preserve the Original Wasco County Courthouse; to collect, exhibit and interpret items related to the governmental/legal history of Wasco County; to provide a venue for presentations of local historical interest; and preserve and make available educational & research materials.

A Word From Your President...

Well, we have now pretty much slid into winter, and I find myself looking forward to spring! The December Open House and Annual Meeting was fun, even if a bit chilly due to the lack of central heating. The following week the folks at A&E Heating and Air installed the new furnace and air conditioning unit at the Courthouse. After the old furnace died, having given over 20 years of service, replacing the furnace with a more modern one was the least invasive and expensive option, and A&E stepped up and did it for the best price in the least amount of time. Now we are more or less ready for the February history programs. Following the last few years of pandemic induced remote presentations we will have a long-anticipated return to live in person presentations at the upstairs courtroom. It will be so nice to see everyone again!

Then we will work on enhancing the visitor experience with some new and refreshed signage and interpretation and maybe add in a recreated jail cell door! Feel free to reach out and help as you can, and Happy New Year.

Eric Gleason, President

And A Note on Our Board...

With a wave of dedication to the health of the Museum, we now have a full compliment of Board Officers to see us through the formal elections in June. Remember the positions of Secretary and Treasurer are both people stepping up temporarily to fill the positions to satisfy state regulations. Therefore it is important for everyone to keep their thinking caps on concerning nominations for the elections at the Annual Meeting. Also, at the December meeting, Linda Wilson stepped up to the plate and agreed to take a swing at being a Board member. Way to Go Linda! It was agreed that she could be added by an email chain which is now underway... Welcome to the monkey house Linda.



What A Difference 60 Years Makes

By 1861 The Cascade Portage Railroad was hauling passengers and freight four and a half miles around the Cascade Rapids on the Columbia River, in a single cart hauled over iron capped wooden rails by a single horse. The following year things improved greatly with the arrival of The Pony, the first steam locomotive in the entire Pacific

Northwest 8 tons and 14 and a half feet end to end, you can still see the Pony housed in a building on the grounds of the Cascade Locks Historical Museum in Cascade Locks, Oregon. To marvel at the march of progress you can take a fast freight 60 miles east (and 60 years into the future...) to the town of Wishram, Washington. There you can see Great Northern's engine 2507, a massive, P-2 Mountain class steam behemoth weighing in at nearly 195 tons. Built in 1923 by the Baldwin Locomotive Works for GN's passenger service, it is 110 feet long, and were they side by side, the Pony would barely cover two of its eight 73 inch driving wheels. A perfect day trip to witness the march of progress..



If You Can't Stand The Heat... Come To The Museum

Along about a week before Thanksgiving, as the weather started turning cold, we pushed the wall thermostat up a notch in anticipation of our tour boat visitors... and sadly not too much happened. After only 29 years of faithful service our HVAC system gave up the ghost. After a frantic call to the furnace guys, we were informed that we had gotten nearly a decade of use out of the furnace beyond what should be expected and that we definitely needed a new unit.

We were forced to cancel our last few tour boat days, shut off the water, install a heat lamp in the furnace room/bathroom and wait out the process of soliciting bids, signing contracts and scheduling an install date. In spite of the remarkably quick process, our problem overlapped the scheduled Open House and Annual Meeting on December 9th.

So we had our Open House and gathering of the Polar Bear Club on the 9th, as planned, in spite of the weather. We filled the ground floor with space heaters, turned the water back on and Stephanie decorated with a dash of holiday cheer. Gallons of hot water for tea and plates of goodies and away we went. It was an intimate gathering, I suppose, but we did have 10 people show up and, although nobody was in a hurry to take their coats off and fashion forward footwear tended towards Sorrels, there were many lively discussions that began with "When we moved here in..." and "My grandfather told me about..." just the kind of conversations that warms the heart of any ardent history buff. Everyone who tried Jacqui's homemade cinnamon rolls earned a spot in the clean plate club, and many went back for seconds (and maybe occasionally thirds,,,) Along came five o'clock and everyone gathered around the desks in the Sheriff's office for an abbreviated Board meeting. Not having a quorum of Board members nothing monumental was voted on, but all got updated on important items, the meeting was adjourned and we all 'disembarked' for warmer destinations.

Three days later the workers from A&E Heating showed up at 8:00 am and, after beavering along all day, drove away about 5:30 that afternoon and we were back among the warm folks.

A heartfelt tip of the hat to ALL the folks who helped out!

The Original Wasco County Courthouse is an Oregon Cultural Trust Partner. As a contributor to our organization you are eligible to participate in Oregon's Cultural Trust Tax Credit program. Donors who contribute to Oregon's cultural non-profits, including the Original Wasco County Courthouse, are eligible to make matching donations to The Oregon Cultural Trust and receive 100% tax credit for the Trust Donation (up to \$500 for individual, \$1000 for a couple filing jointly and \$2,500 for a Class-C Corporation).

Learn more at culturaltrust.org

Thank You For Your Support



Grant Update

We are well underway on our grant application to Oregon Cultural Trust for assistance on our jail door project. Eric wrote the initial proposal and then passed it on to be reviewed by Stephanie who used her grant writing skills to suggest improvements. Once that is done the grant request will be submitted before the February 17th deadline and we will hopefully have an answer by the end of February.

We are asking for the full amount of the cost of the iron works with our matching part being research, material and labor to install and the associated interpretation and signage. This has been a long, complicated process and we want to thank everyone who has pitched in along the way. And, maybe with luck, we can all spend a little time behind bars!



Interested in getting the word out about yourself or your business? Consider placing a business card sized ad for your services in the pages of our quarterly newsletter. Rates are only \$50.00 for four issues and are available on a limited basis... We are looking for a few advertisers to help us out with the publishing and mailing costs and, if you are reading this article, remember that the advertisers are helping us out, so please return the favor and use their services whenever the need arises.

Publish deadlines are Dec. 15th, March 15th, June 15th and Sept 15th each calendar year. Camera ready artwork or questions should be e-mailed to: ztahol@gmail.com.

HOURS AND ADMISSION FEES

MAY 1st through SEPTEMBER 30th

11:00am -3:00 pm

Extended hours for group visits by previous appointment
and when The American Empress is in town.

Adults	\$3.00 each
Family Rate	\$6.00
Youth 12-18	\$2.00 each
Children 6-11	\$1.00 each
Children under 6	FREE
Adult Groups	\$2.00 each
Youth Groups 6-17	\$1.00 each

*And as always, remember that if you are current on this year's Museum membership
you will get in for free anytime!*

Have you renewed your membership?



Our Esteemed Board of Directors & hangers on various and sundry



Eric Gleason: *President*, **Sandy Bisset:** *Vice President*,
Rodger Nichols: *acting secretary*,
Stephanie Rickert: *acting treasurer*,
Karl Vercouteren: *sitting Board member*,
Sherry Mumford: *sitting Board member*, **Carol Stace:** *sitting Board member*,
with
Trish Neal: *Internet support*, **Duane Powell:** *Technical support*,
Chris Bolton: *Exhibit designer & Docent*,
Juanita Neitling: *Volunteer*

We need your e-mail address! No, we promise not to sell it to anyone. But once we have it, we can send you the newest newsletter *in full, postage free, color...* and with a few easy keystrokes you will be able to send it on to friends. Those of you without e-mail, please don't worry. We will continue to send the same information to you by snail mail. Remember our membership year runs from January 1st through December 31st each year. You can print this page separately, in black and white, and get yourself this snazzy membership application to fill out and mail in... And there is a second membership form just right for passing along to that friend you want to become a member too! Asking a friend to join with you helps us exceed last year's membership numbers, and filling in your e-mail address on your membership form is the easiest way to place yourself on the list to receive the full color newsletter, thereby saving yourself from a drab life in black and white...

Please take a minute and renew your membership and continue being a vital part of our historic preservation effort.



ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE PRESERVATION CORPORATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

2023

The Original Courthouse Preservation Corp. is a Federally designated 501(C)3 non-profit organization.

As such your donations & membership dues are tax deductible to the extent allowable by law.

(PLEASE PRINT)

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

MAILING ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL: _____

MEMBERSHIP LEVEL
Please check appropriate box

Please mail this form and your check to:
Original Courthouse Preservation Corp.
PO Box 839 The Dalles, OR 97058

☐ \$15.00 Individual ☐ \$25.00 Family ☐ \$40.00 Sustaining ☐ \$100.00 Patron

☐ Additional donation _____ ☐ Donation in memory of: _____ ☐ in honor of: _____



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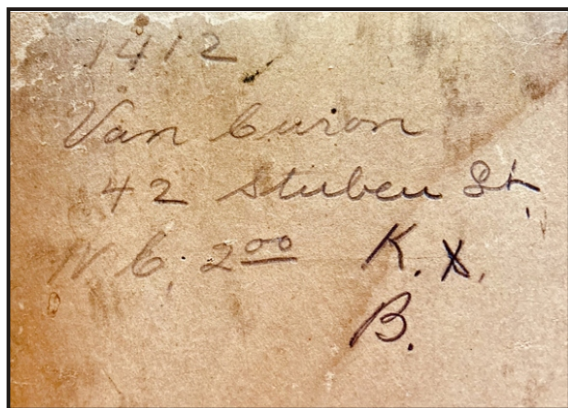
Will Our Mystery Guest Sign In Please...

One day last spring the museum land line rang while I was doing my docent thing. Now normally it's either someone selling me something or someone wanting to know how many unpaid parking tickets they have. But this time it was different. After some hemming and hawing and a few false starts the older gentleman on the other end of the line confessed that more than a half century ago he, as a then young boy of 10 or 11, had been walking home from a swim at the Natatorium and had chanced to stroll by the derelict courthouse building. Being a young boy he found his way inside where he chanced upon a framed picture that, 50 years later, he wondered if we might want back. Not knowing what this treasure might be I of course said yes, indeed, and after some arrangements we became the custodians of a lovely, hand colored, framed portrait of the unidentified mystery woman. A little repair work on the frame and a sheet of protective glass and some archival backing and she would be good for another five decades... and while I had it all apart, perhaps there was something written



on the back? The curatorial dreamer in me hoped for a name, a date and perhaps a sketch of a simple family tree. And, yes, there was something written on the back. Rather than resolution, however, this only added to the mystery. Written in pencil in the upper left corner was a shorthand code of sorts;

1412, Van Curon, 42 Stuben St, N(?) C, \$2.00 and K.X.B.



Even the internet left me in the dark and so I decided to open source the image to you readers on the off chance that someone will recognize her as someone of local importance and put a name to the face. Somebody famous in one of the towns across the river so that she might find an appropriate museum to call home. Or maybe someone will notice that she looks remarkably like Great Aunt Eunice and then a rummage through the family photo shoe box will reveal a snapshot of her as a young girl on the front porch of the family home on, for example, the corner of Alvord and G streets. And, hey, sitting in a rocking chair beside her, isn't

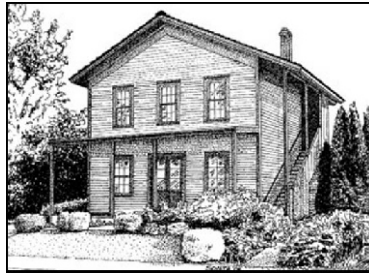
that (maybe, for example...) Their lodger, Sheriff Andy Crabb (the only sheriff we still need a picture of...) Wouldn't that be ever so nice? And that boys and girls is how exhibits are made.

Of Course Some Courthouse Folks We Do Know...



If you're not sure who these folks are then just drop by the museum and you'll find 'em all on our walls.

This Year's February History Forum Lectures



ORIGINAL WASCO COUNTY COURTHOUSE - 1859

ORIGINAL COURTHOUSE

REGIONAL HISTORY FORUM SERIES FOR 2023

Programs begin at 1:30 p.m. in the upstairs courtroom of the 1859 courthouse,
410 West 2nd Place, The Dalles behind the Chamber of Commerce / Visitors' Center

Saturday, February 4

50 Million Years of Tumultuous Geologic History

Retired geoscientist Lloyd DeKay heads up the Columbia Gorge Chapter of the Ice Age Floods Institute. He will trace the massive volcanic eruptions, landslides and earthquakes that formed the Gorge, with emphasis on the catastrophic floods that sculpted some of the geologic wonders and beauty we marvel at today.



Saturday, February 11

Vineyards and Wineries of the Columbia Gorge



The Pines 1852 owner and vintner Lonnie Wright first came to his century-old vineyard on Mill Creek in 1982. He expanded the vineyard and established his own winery in 2001. Through his vineyard management skills, he worked with others in the industry to define the Columbia Gorge as a wine region. Come hear how the Columbia Gorge wine region from Hood River/White Salmon to Maryhill went from one winery in 1980 to forty in 2020.

This Year's February History Forum Lectures

Saturday, February 18

Her Name Was Eleanor: Teacher, Dancer, Equestrian, Activist

Linda Wilson was Eleanor Borg's student and helped develop the mural honoring her teacher that was painted in the 2022 MuralFest. Eleanor shared her boundless enthusiasm for dance, acrobatics, ballet, and horses with hundreds of children from the 1950s through the 1970s. Former students are invited to share memories.



Saturday, February 25

Mapping Fort Dalles: Then and Now



Local historian and professional archeologist Eric Gleason traces the legacy of Fort Dalles from 1859 to the present. Overlaying historical maps onto the modern maps of the city reveals the relationship of the historic fort to the town and suggests locations for further archeological investigations.

Admission is free for the February programs

Donations gladly accepted! Downstairs monitor for those unable to climb stairs.

Coffee and cookies will be served