



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...

Happy Spring everyone! We made it through another Winter, although I must say that it was an incredibly mild one! Things have been going well at the Courthouse. We just finished up the Vercouteren Regional History Forum programs, which were all quite interesting, enlightening, and well attended. It is so nice to get together with folks and learn some history, especially in the dead of the winter in the nice warm Courthouse. You can also now see these programs online thanks to the video mastery of Duane Powell and the editing skills of Rodger Nichols (OWCCHistoryForums-YouTube)

We are now getting ready for the opening season and the annual membership meeting. We have several open board positions if you are interested in joining in and lending a hand just let anyone on the board know your interest.

For something a little different, this year we will be adding a couple of statewide history programs in partnership with the Oregon Historical Society, and supported by a grant from the Wasco Cultural Trust Coalition with funds from the Oregon Cultural Trust to support Oregon's arts, heritage, and the humanities. On July 25th at 7:00 pm in the Granada Theater we will welcome Michael Helquist, author of *Marie Equi: Radical Politics and Outlaw Passions*. In 1891, Marie Equi and her partner Bessie Holcomb homesteaded a piece of ground just west of The Dalles. Both young women were in their 20s coming by train from New Bedford, Massachusetts. Almost 133 years to the day of the Helquist presentation, Marie made the news by horsewhipping local Baptist Minister, School Administrator, and Real Estate Developer O.D. Taylor, while he was on his way home from his office above the French and Company Bank. Marie was upset that Taylor had failed to pay Holcomb money owed her for teaching. Taylor, due in part to his real estate development schemes, was a less than popular figure in town. Equi and Holcomb would prove up their homestead and leave town in 1896., where Equi would attend medical school and become a doctor. The horsewhipping of Taylor would prove to be just the start of Marie Equi's activism in California, Oregon, and Washington. Come to the program and find out more of the story! Later in the summer or fall (date yet to be determined) we will host another important and fascinating program presented by the Oregon Black Pioneers, stay tuned for further details!

Take Care Everyone,
-Eric Gleason, President

The Night Miss Nancy Ann's Hotel For Single Girls Burned Down...

One of the real gems of our 43 years of February Forums is that we have kept an auditory record of almost every one. Now, thanks to the skill and enduring patience of Board Member Rodger Nichols, these have all been converted to one usable format and made available to you. (See the article below...) So by now you may be wondering what this has to do with the title of this story. Well... in 1971 a country & western singer named Ted Williams recorded a cute, funny song by that title about a fire in a "working house" and the flood of dignitaries who were seen pouring out the back door to avoid the flames... now back to the other story. In February of 1995 one of the presenters was Attorney Merideth Van Valkenburg who spoke about the bawdy houses and working gals of The Dalles. Without going into detail I will tell you that this tape was corrupted but that miraculously a written transcript survived and, as I read it, Ted Williams little ditty was in heavy rotation in my head the whole time. Being for a time the Deputy District Attorney here in town, Mr. Van Valkenburg knows whereof he speaks and I for one was captivated. His talk covers the wide spread flow of money from real estate to doctors to dress shops and beyond and he talks about folks who thought it had the moral imperative of saving the daughters from the baser instincts of the young men. It appears The Dalles was a major player in the NW circuit; illegal but accepted until the Federal Army Corp. of Engineers began construction of The Dalles dam in the 1950s and wanted them closed down. So get yourself a copy of this great talk and learn another layer of The Dalles history.

And, thanks to the ubiquity of the internet you can search YouTube for "Ted Williams" and/or "The Night Miss Nancy Ann's Hotel For Single Girls Burned Down" and hear the original recording. It'll put a smile on your face...

And As Promised...

So, in a task that makes the labors of Hercules seem but a footnote, our own Rodger Nichols undertook the converting of all of our archived recordings from previous forums and such into a single, user friendly format. Having forty plus years to cover we had reel to reel tapes, Cd's and cassettes (remember when these were the "newest thing"?). Seems like we had just about every kind of system except stone tablets and 8-track cartridges. So, confronted with this hodge-podge of information, Rodger listened to them all, cleaned up the sound quality where he could, edited duplicate bits and generally made them easy to listen to. He then converted them all to a digital format that could be downloaded onto a simple thumb drive to sell to the interested.

Then, rather than rest on his laurels, he took the time to cross-index them all three ways; by date, by speaker and by subject matter. That way you can find that favorite program even if you don't remember all the details. If you're doing general historical research or the talk was about your grandma... or hey, maybe it was your grandma giving the talk... this is an amazing tool at your fingertips. Check it out. We'll let you know when and where the index is available on line and in the mean time we have a printout at the Courthouse Museum at 410 2nd Place here in The Dalles.

Original Wasco County Courthouse Museum

Audio Recordings

each thumb drive - \$5.00

plus

1-9 programs - \$5.00 each

10-24 programs - \$4.00 each

25-49 programs - \$3.00 each

50-99 programs - \$2.00 each

or buy all of the series

165 programs for \$1.00 each



Thought for today: Everybody needs at least one friend who shouldn't sit next to you at serious occasions.

Our Esteemed Board of Directors & hangers on various and sundry



Eric Gleason: *President,*
(Your name here?): *Vice President,*
Linda Wilson: *Secretary,*
Sheila Dooley: *Treasurer*
sitting Board members:

Sandy Bisset,
Sherry Mumford,
Rodger Nichols
and
Carol Stace.

with
Trish Neal: *Internet support,*
Duane Powell: *Technical support,*
Chris Bolton: *Graphic Arts & Docent,*

HOURS AND ADMISSION FEES

Thursday, Friday and Saturday
MAY 1st through SEPTEMBER 26th

11:00am -3:00 pm

Extended hours for group visits
by previous appointment

Adults	\$5.00 each
Family Rate	\$10.00
Youth 12-18	\$4.00 each
Children 6-11	\$2.00 each
Children under 6	FREE
Adult Groups	\$4.00 each
Youth Groups 6-17	\$3.00 each

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

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

Please help sustain history in The Dalles by supporting the Original Wasco County Courthouse and our partner organizations.

Original Wasco County Courthouse
Fort Dalles Museum & Anderson Homestead
Wasco County Historical Society
The Rorick/Moody House
The Wing Hong Hai Building
St. Peter's Landmark
The Neon Sign Museum
The Veterans' Museum in City Hall
The Granada Theater
The Dalles Mural Society
District 21 School Museum
The Dalles Fire Museum
Columbia Gorge Discovery Center & Museum
Wasco County Pioneers
The Dalles Civic Auditorium

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

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

\$20.00 Individual \$30.00 Family \$50.00 Sustaining \$100.00 Patron

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



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