

past & present

FALL • 2011

Harvest Fun Day 2011

Our coolest event of the year is right around the corner! **Join us on Saturday, September 24** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the 78th Street Heritage Farm in Hazel Dell when we partner with Clark County to host our 8th Annual Harvest Fun Day! It's a FREE day of family fun on the farm, including pie-eating and corn shucking contests, scarecrow-making, pumpkin decorating, additional hands-on craft activities and displays, blacksmithing and draft horse and mule plowing demonstrations, 4-H

live animal displays, live music, and lots of old-fashioned fun.

In addition to getting back to the basics and making something with your hands, participants can also give back to the community by helping the Clark County Food Bank with their carrot harvest. The WSU Master Gardeners will also host a plant sale;

proceeds support the Master Gardener Program.

This awesome event is sponsored by the Clark Cowlitz Farm Bureau with additional sponsorship from US Bank and

Dulin's Café. Media sponsors are: The Columbian and The Vancouver Business Journal. In-kind support is provided by: Bi-Zi Farms, Clark County, Waste Connections, Salvation Army, Sunrise Bagels, Water and Air Works, Hi-School True Value Hardware, Blockbuster Hazel Del, and Anderson Dairy. It also takes a large number of volunteers to staff the

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At last year's event, 5,000 lbs of carrots were harvested for local families in need.



1511 Main Street
Vancouver WA 98660

(360) 993-5679

Email: cchm@pacifier.com

www.cchmuseum.org

Open: Tuesday–Saturday 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Also First Thursday evenings (Feb.– Nov.) 5 to 9 p.m.



CLARK COUNTY HISTORICAL MUSEUM
est. 1964
operated by the Clark County Historical Society

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Continuing to work within our schools

Working in partnership with the Washougal, Evergreen and Ridgefield School Districts via a federal *Teaching American History* Grant the CCHM is continuing to expand the Artifact Detectives program that began in 2009. Pioneer Elementary teacher Janet Dondelinger and Applied Archaeological Research archaeologist Jessica Hale both of who worked on the former Artifacts Detective pilot project have returned to mentor two teachers per year during the 2011-2013 projects. Teachers Dave Hajek and Pete Forgey (see photo below) from the Washougal School District are creating additional education materials that will be incorporated into two new classroom kits that will provide hands-on learning utilizing historical artifacts found during the construction of the Vancouver Convention Center and Hilton Hotel. Hajek and Forgey will test the materials in their classrooms during this year school year. Once completed, their materials will be added to our website alongside the materials developed previously by Dondelinger and Morgan. If you are not familiar with this project take a look at our website at www.cchmuseum.org or search for Artifact Detectives on *You Tube*.



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event. Last year's event was attended by over 3,000 people. Supplies are limited to what's on hand so plan to arrive early! For those of you who do not want to pack a lunch, food booths from Vancouver Pizza, Farrar's Bistro and 4-H will be onsite with food items

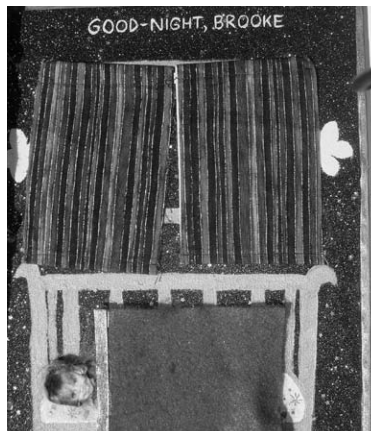


available for purchase.

Because there is a limit on the number of contestants, the pie eating and corn shucking contest registration is handled on a first come first served basis. Call us at (360) 993-5679 to sign up. For more information, visit www.cchmuseum.org/fun.

Crafting personal history workshop: Toddler's felt book (*October class*)

Learn how to create a personalized, interactive felt book for that special toddler in your life. This is a wonderful project for a doting grandparent, parent or guardian. Making and sharing this book will enhance your present relationship with your grandchild or child while recording part of his or her personal history. The finished product would also make a wonderful holiday gift. **This two-part workshop will be held on two Saturdays, October 8 and 22, 2011** from 10 a.m. to noon. Class fee is \$22.



The fee includes materials to create the covers and three pages of a felt book, plus a felt doll. Contact the museum at (360) 993-5679 to register; class is limited to 12 participants.

The class will be taught by retired educator Pepper Kim (pictured above), who has taught high school for 25 years. She is an artist, lifelong crafter and CCHM supporter. The felt book she created for her two-year-old granddaughter, Brooke, is the inspiration for this class.

Testimonial: Brooke's favorite book to read with her grandmother is her felt book, "The Book of Brooke."

Participants bring to class: sewing scissors, if you have them, or regular scissors, list of toddler's favorite foods, pictures of toddler's bedroom.





Message from the Executive Director

Every day there is mention in the media about the status of the economy. It is tough out there and the museum is feeling the strain. We have been impacted by the slow economy. Every year we raise/earn over 70% of our lean cash operating budget. That dollar amount is also matched annually with very generous in-kind contributions from local government, businesses and individuals. We also apply for grants to help with program expenses. One source of revenue that supports the museum is our museum store sales and photographic reproduction service. Like many retail operations sales are down. Admission to the museum is up but the donation buckets have been sparse. So I am asking you outright for your support. I am very proud of how we stretch our resources (your contributions). We operate very frugally and creatively with a conservative budget. We provide a great return for every dollar given to the museum with the majority of our income going directly to fund public programs. There is a limit to how far we can stretch; our dedicated staff (paid and unpaid) needs your help. There are a number of ways you can help the museum. Please consider a gift today of one or more of the following.

- **Monetary donations.** Donations can be mailed in, phoned in, or made from the convenience of your home or office via our website and PayPal. If you would like to spread your donation out monthly please give us a call to make the arrangements.
- **Join or renew your annual membership** to the CCHS. There is a membership form in this newsletter and also on our website.
- **Make a legacy gift** to honor your own dedication to heritage or make one in honor of someone else.
- **Make the museum a beneficiary** in your estate planning.
- **Need a gift for that hard to buy for person?** Consider giving a gift membership or making a donation in honor of someone else.
- **Donate gently used furniture and household items** to benefit the museum via Divine Consign's Gifts for Our Community program. Visit www.divineconsignfurniture.org for more information.
- **Donate your time** to help staff the museum and special projects/events.
- **Join the Minnehaha Garden Club's effort** and donate time to help pull weeds in the flower beds around the Carnegie Library building (museum).

Thank you in advance for your continued support and I hope to see you soon at your museum! I can be reached at (360) 993-5679 or tissots@pacifier.com if you would like more information.

Best, Susan MG Tissot

P.S. Please mark your calendar for our 8th annual Harvest Fun Day event on September 24; our Authors Party & Membership Meeting on November 17; and Holiday Open House and Artisan's Market on December 3.



BNSF lends support to the SP&S railroad exhibit project



In addition to being awarded a federal Transportation Enhancement grant of \$70,000 (administered in partnership between the Washington State Department of Archaeology & Historic Preservation and the Washington State Department of Transportation) the CCHM has also received generous support for the SP&S exhibit project from the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad (BNSF) via a grant of \$7,500. These funds will enable the museum to complete the exhibits planned for installation inside Vancouver's 1909 Depot (current Amtrak Station). Stay tuned for a grand opening announcement summer of 2012.

The SP&S project is a three part, two location project. In addition to the Vancouver Depot, there will be a future exhibit (pending funding) onsite at the museum. In preparation for that exhibit, there is an ongoing remodeling project inside the museum's northeast corner that involves the museum, the city of Vancouver and a number of community partners. Most recently, electrician Bob Carroll and members from IBEW # 48 (pictured top right) have been spending Saturdays at the museum preparing the gallery for the new track lighting

and electrical outlets. Bob Colf, principal at Colf Construction, has joined the project and generously donated his company's time to assist with the project management and completion of the remodeling project. Not to be cliché, but as they say, it takes a village and this project is a great example of our community at work. The museum gallery remodel costs will be

valued at approximately \$85,000 so we greatly appreciate all the support we have received. Stop by to see the progress!



Minnehaha Garden Club adopts museum

Minnehaha Garden Club has adopted the museum and is donating their time to help weed the flower beds. Pictured is garden club member Sharon Welch.

Taking care of the museum is a big job. Contact us if you would like to help keep the museum weed free.

Stay connected

There is a lot happening at your museum! We realize that we have competition for your free time. Time flies and sometimes activities and events we plan to attend sneak past us. In order to keep the museum a dynamic place we have to put timelines on our exhibit runs and special programs. If you are not already receiving our weekly eblasts, Facebook messages and/or newly restarted *The 23* electronic newsletter (see John Barber's Brautigan Library article in this issue) I encourage you to do so. These communications do a great service as a reminder on upcoming exhibit changes and events. Contact us at info@cchmuseum.org or (360) 993-5679 to get connected or to update your contact information with any recent changes.

The Brautigan Library and the revival of *The 23*

As you may know, the Brautigan Library is a new, permanent, interactive collection housed at the Clark County Historical Museum and operated in partnership with The Creative Media & Digital Culture Program at Washington State University Vancouver. The collection consists of 323 manuscripts representing many different kinds of writing. The majority of this collection is writing that shares a personal vision. Many of the books are written in first person, signaling a library different from any other, a library that will be of interest to writers and readers keen to share stories, a library offering a unique, and grass-roots view of America.

The original idea for this library comes from

Washington-born author Richard Brautigan, who, in his 1971 novel *The Abortion*, imagined a library where anyone could contribute a book manuscript. In 1990, Vermont artists and entrepreneurs under the leadership of Todd Lockwood and inspired by Brautigan built a library to house unpublished manuscripts. No restrictions were placed on the subject matter or quality of writing, although each manuscript had to be unpublished when submitted to the Brautigan Library. The non-profit library closed in 2006. In 2011, the Brautigan Library was moved to the Clark County Historical Museum in Vancouver, Washington, Brautigan's birth state. The library is now a permanent, interactive

collection where visitors can interact with and read any of the manuscripts on the shelves.

The original Brautigan Library issued a printed newsletter titled *The 23* that ran 17 issues from December 1990 (Vol. 1, No. 1) to 1995 (Vol. 5, No. 1-2). The name was taken from a chapter in Brautigan's novel *The Abortion*, *The 23*, that describes the unpublished works of 23 unknown American writers. We plan to continue *The 23* newsletter, but rather than printed, we will send copies via email.

To receive your copy of *The 23*, please visit the "Newsletter" page at The Brautigan Library website www.thebrautiganlibrary.org and enter your name, country, and email address in the appropriate text boxes. We'll automatically send you a copy each time *The 23* is published.

Thank you for supporting the Brautigan Library and the Clark County Historical Museum.

The Librarian
The Brautigan Library



Digital photo collection continues to grow

Over two years ago, we announced a collaborative, grant-funded project with Washington State University that allowed us to digitize and store roughly half of the 15,000 images and 2,000+ glass negatives in our photographic collection. Over 7,500 images have been scanned, catalogued, and uploaded onto a key-word searchable database which is posted to WSU's digital archive server in Pullman making the collection accessible 24/7 to the public via the internet. Pending additional funding, we plan to digitize the rest of the collection making it available as well.

We got an opportunity to restart the project in March through a partnership with the University of Washington's Museum Studies Certificate Program. Kristina Wells,



a UW Museum Studies student, used the project to complete the practicum requirement for her certificate. Her practicum included scanning photographs, documenting information about each image, ensuring original images were stored using sound archival practices, and creating written instructions for future volunteers to help the project live on to completion.

While her practicum ended in May, Kris has continued her weekly scanning sessions at the museum as a volunteer. Robert Schimelpfenig, WSU Vancouver's Archive Specialist recently posted the 300+ images Kris processed onto the digital database making the project a Cougar and Huskie partnership!

In addition to allowing online storage and public access, the digitization project helps us protect the original images and slow the deterioration that handling, light, and improper storage can cause. Kris adds, "I love this project; each day is like a treasure hunt. I like to think that I'm helping to preserve not just the photographs themselves, but the memories of the people and places our community was built upon." Check out the digital collections already online at www.cchmuseum.org; just click on Archives, then Electronic Resources.



Girl Scout Leadership event

On Saturday, October 29, the museum is partnering with the Girl Scouts of Oregon and SW Washington to provide a leadership event in conjunction with the Road to Equality exhibit and the birthday of Girl Scouts of the USA founder Juliette Low. The event will be divided into two parts. From 11 am to noon, a panel of female community leaders will speak and answer questions about their experiences as women in leadership roles—the panel discussion will be open to Girl Scout Cadettes, Seniors, Ambassadors, and Adult Girl Scouts. From 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., Girls Scouts of all levels and ages are invited to view the Road to Equality exhibit, have birthday cake, participate in craft activities and visit with Girl Scout Gold Award recipients. The event is \$5 per person. Girls Scout troop members are required to pre-register via the Girl Scouts in Personify or contact elauervose@girlscoutsw.org.

Photo above shows Juliette Gordon Low (center) standing with two Girl Scouts. (Courtesy wikipedia.com)

Behind the scenes with the collections manager

I've been working hard at instituting Best Practices and getting CCHM's collections in order. One of the largest projects I am working on is an inventory of the museum collection. Having a complete and current inventory of the collection is important so that staff can know definitively what is in our possession, where each object is and what it looks like. The museum keeps records when objects are added to the collection however due to the many staff and record-keeping changes over the last 47 years we can't rely solely on the documents so we are pro-actively practicing due diligence.

The inventory process that we're using is a basic box-by-box, shelf-by-shelf plan. Volunteer Craig Sessoms and I have been going through the contents of each box making a list of its location, taking digital photographs, and making notes on the objects description and current condition. I have also been re-boxing objects that are stored in ways that don't

Collections Manager Karly Schubothe



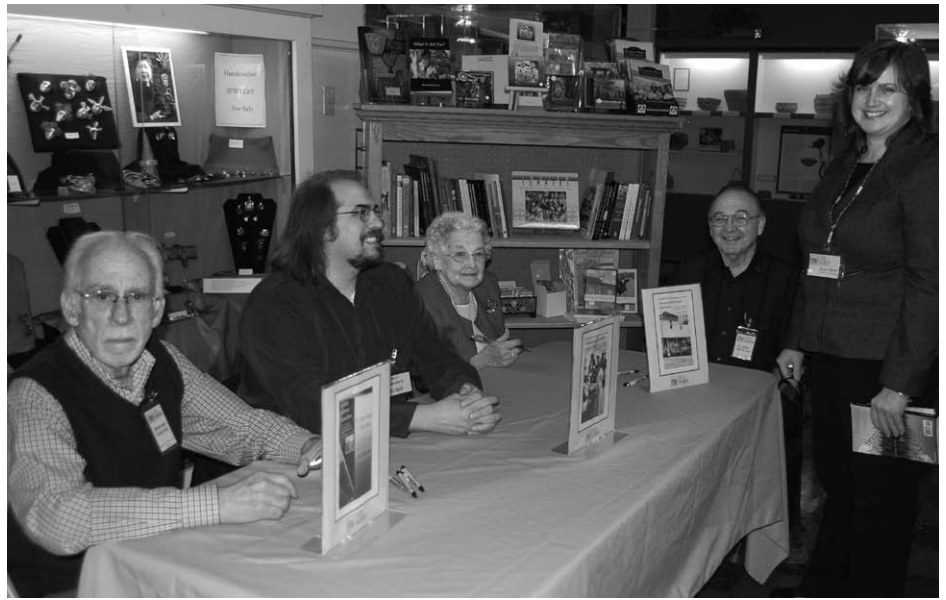
meet museum standards. Then WSU Vancouver Intern Brad Richardson or I enter the information (location, new condition or descriptions and photo) into the collections database and make up a shelf list. The goal is to make identifying and locating objects in the collection easier, which makes pulling objects for exhibitions or research simpler. It also cuts down on the amount of handling of the objects which will in the long run protect their lifespan. Also working with us is volunteer Bianca Marshack who is manually entering the old accession cards into our computer database. The goal here is cross-check the paper records with the physical inventory.

So far I have inventoried a wide variety of objects from Native American beadwork to military objects to personal toiletry artifacts and most of our clothing holdings. Craig and Brad have inventoried all of our onsite tools and some of our merchandising and musical related artifacts. Once all of the objects stored in the museum building are inventoried we will start inventorying the objects at our off-site storage facility. Since our collection is so varied, this is a very large project that requires a great attention to detail, but we are making great progress and are helping to preserve the collection!



2011 Annual Meeting

Thursday, November 17 is our annual Authors' Party and Annual Membership meeting. Starting at 5 p.m., join the authors as we release the latest edition of the Clark County History Annual, our yearly publication containing articles written by community members on a wide range of topics of local and historical interest. At 6 p.m. current and prospective members are invited to join us for our Annual Membership Meeting. Executive Director Susan Tissot will announce the Volunteer of the Year and provide a 2011 recap and discussion of what is coming up next. Members receive a free copy of the new book, so this is a great opportunity to renew your membership and find out what's happening at the museum!



Author Signing at 2010 Annual Meeting

Visit our website at www.cchmuseum.org

Follow us on



YouTube



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I am becoming a member I am renewing membership

Please renew my membership for two years (double payment enclosed). *I decline monetary benefits associated with my renewal, making my gift fully tax deductible.*

I am a current member but want to purchase another membership as a gift.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip+4 _____ Phone _____

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Make sure you include your email address to receive our e-blasts and special invitations.

Also enclosed is my donation of \$ _____. My donation is

in memory of *OR* in honor of

Annual membership levels

- \$500 Curator \$250 Historian \$100 Associate
 \$60 Family \$40 Individual \$25 Student (non-voting)

Payment information

- Check (payable to CCHS) VISA / MasterCard

Card number _____

Expiration date _____

Signature _____

CW2# _____

Please send me information about:

- Volunteer opportunities
 Including CCHS in my will/trust
 Making a gift to CCHS through a bequest, annuity, securities or real estate

Mail completed form to:

CCHS, PO Box 61916, Vancouver, WA 98666

Monthly installment plans are available at the Associate level and above. Contact museum staff at (360) 993-5679 or email info@cchmuseum.org for details.

Calendar of events for fall 2011

SEPTEMBER

24

8th Annual Harvest Fun Day at the 78th Street Heritage Farm, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., free admission.



29 Last day to see *Bridging the Gap: the History of the Interstate Bridge* exhibit. *Special event for Girl Scouts*: celebrate Juliette Low's birthday by attending this leadership event.

NOVEMBER

3 First Thursday Museum After Hours Lecture series: *Lewis & Clark College Law School Faculty and Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Court of Appeals Chief Justice*

Robert Miller (above) is our guest for a special Native American History Month presentation, 7 p.m., free admission.



OCTOBER

6 First Thursday Museum After Hours Lecture series: author Jeff Davis (right) and *Weird Washington* in this special pre-Halloween edition, 7 p.m., free admission.



26 *Souper Wednesday*: it's our annual thank you celebration of our volunteers!

15 *Working with Tradition: Folk Artists of Washington State* exhibit opens. This traveling exhibit from the Washington State Historical Society that will be augmented with Folk Art collections; runs through Feb. 15, 2012.

17 *Annual Authors' Party and Annual Membership meeting*, 5 and 6 p.m. Join us for the release of the 2010 Annual, our 2011 Volunteer of the Year Award and a glimpse of 2012 highlights.

DECEMBER

3 *Holiday open house and artisans' market*, craft activities for children and holiday shopping event at the museum, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., free admission.

31 Last day to see *Road to Equality* exhibit.



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