Newspapers have been an integral part of American life since the first one was printed in Colonial times. For generations, they have played a critical role in shaping and documenting our history. Along with the people's need for information in a functioning democracy, American journalists have a constitutional right to report the facts regardless of the consequences.

Generations of Americans have relied on the morning or evening paper to keep them informed about important issues, community events, even sale prices at local stores. Long before the internet, newspapers reflected the interests of the greater community and provided a means of filtering out rumors circulating via the grapevine.

Drawn from abstracts summarizing Clark County newspaper articles from 1850 to 1958 and compiled by Carl Landerholm, this exhibit is an overview of what Landerholm focused on in his comprehensive publication, the *Vancouver Area Chronology*. Combining the significant events featured "above the fold" and the unusual events "below the fold," this is not an exhaustive anthology of Clark County; it is rather a glimpse into our local past. For more information visit the museum’s research library.

**Who was Carl Landerholm?**

Carl Landerholm (1885-1961) was a life-long resident who had a 40 year career in Clark County public schools. He was a popular teacher, principal and superintendent who retired in 1947. He assembled the book, *Vancouver Area Chronology*, between 1956 and 1959, working steadily, often five to eight hours a day. With amazing tenacity, he pored over area newspapers and documents, reading literally millions of words. Each selection was carefully documented and made easily accessible for researchers seeking information about the area. When asked why he did it, he replied, "to save people hundreds of hours in looking up things."

This exhibit is dedicated to the memory of Carl Landerholm, whose love of history continues to benefit our community today.
AUTUMN 1876: Arthur Hidden planted the first prune orchard in Clarke County, 4 acres near the present 26th and Main Streets, Vancouver.

1888: Reported “As a place 10 or 12 miles east of Vancouver, called Prune Hill, there is a great deal of land being set out in prunes, the oldest orchard being that of M. A. Boyer. In 1885 he set out 550 yearling trees, of which, the past season, he harvested 6 tons of dried prunes.” Six prune orchardists were also listed as getting their orchards into prosperous bearing near Vancouver.

OCT. 24, 1888: The Columbian in a long article declared that the prune industry “cannot be overdone; the more that is raised, the better the price and demand – the crop this year – about $40,000.”

MAY 21, 1887: A monument indicating the location of U. S. Grant’s potato field was dedicated at East 5th and Davis Streets by cadets of the Hill Military Academy.

JUNE 27, 1890: Reported that potato drying for the Alaska trade was under way. The Seward Bros. in Fruit Valley had already turned out “$1,000 worth.” C. H. Ricker near Vancouver was drying potatoes and calçais “for the Klondike trade.” (The Labor Exchange at La Center was also drying potatoes.)

DECEMBER 17, 1910: Clarke County Fruit Inspector A. A. Quarnberg reported on a complete census of prune trees in the county; there were about 5,000 acres in prune orchard and between 500,000 and 600,000 trees.

FEB. 2, 1911: A very severe “silver thaw” prostrated Vancouver and areas along the Columbia. “no light, no power, no school, no nothing.” This was the climax of an unusually severe January. In places as on Mill Plain, the prune trees were so badly wrecked that the industry never fully recovered.

MAY 12, 1929: The Clark County Potato Growers’ Association was formally organized at Ridgefield.

DECEMBER 14, 1942: The Battle Ground Dairymen’s Cooperative announced that business for the year had almost reached $1,500,000.

AUGUST 1, 1931: A MILK War broke out in Clark County. Enraged by the refusal of Portland distributors to meet their demands, dairymen of the dairy cooperative blocked the Interstate Bridge. “hundreds of determined dairymen” taking part, dumped 5,600 gallons of milk from Portland trucks. A milk house near Woodland was dynamited. After several days of such activity, the dairymen won their demands.

DEC. 4, 1952: After a prolonged struggle by dairy interests to prevent it, yellow oleomargarine went on sale at 12:01 a.m. throughout the state.
**BOOZE, BRICKS, & BOARDS—OPEN FOR BUSINESS**

**JUNE 1868:** The first brewery building at Vancouver torn down; built by Henry Weinhard in 1857.

**1871:** The Hidden Brick Co. was founded at Vancouver by L. M. Hidden.

**1872:** The M. R. Sparks Co. established its hardware store at Vancouver, on Main St. south of 5th.

**MAY 8, 1884:** Reported, copied from the Portland Standard: “A Complete sawmill, having a capacity of 50,000 feet is in running order and supplies the present demand” (at La Cama). Water power.

**JAN. 15, 1887:** “The first board ever created at Amboy” was sawed in the presence of the editor of the Independent and other Vancouver visitors at A. M. Ball’s newly built sawmill there.

Water power. Capable of cutting twenty-five to thirty thousand feet per day. If auxiliary power should be needed, oxen would supply it.

**SEPT. 7, 1910:** The contract for building the Union Woolen Mills at Washougal was let. (It was renamed the Washougal Woolen Mills in 1912).

**JUNE 7, 1920:** Christy and Poppa’s new mill at Yacolt began cutting lumber for the market; capacity, 50,000 feet per day.

**JAN. 22, 1943:** The Fred Meyer store on McArthur Boulevard on McLoughlin Heights opened for business.

**OCT. 23, 1933:** The Bear Brewery at Vancouver resumed operations for the first time since Prohibition.

**JUNE 22, 1953:** The Good-ea Potato Chip Co. of Vancouver turned out its first bag of potato chips.

**TIMEPIECES . . .

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Hygenic, Scientific

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Cooks without Fire

The Housewife will be pleased with this stove. Call and let us explain its wonderful merits.

**M. R. SPARKS**
CLARK COUNTY GETS SCHOOLED

JAN. 1, 1835: John Ball was installed by McLoughlin as the first teacher in the Oregon Country at Fort Vancouver.

SEPT. 1, 1874: School opened in the new House of Providence, Vancouver, by the Sisters of Charity.


SEPT. 25, 1891: The new Clark College buildings and beautiful campus were dedicated, and the new President, Dr. Dwight C. Baird, inaugurated with impressive ceremonies. Governor and Mrs. Albert Rosellini with an array of civic and educational leaders both local and from the Pacific Northwest in general attended. Hundred's wandered about the campus and inspected the $2,000,000 buildings. The weather was perfect.

AUG. 8, 1894: Reported that "Yacolt now has no school house." It was discovered that by error the building was on a homestead belonging to D. C. Greenwalt, who had sold it to a stranger.

The latter forcibly entered the schoolhouse, threw out the furniture, and moved in. "Strange to say, there seems to be no remedy at law!"

NOV. 18, 1933: Announcement made that the official name of the new junior college at Vancouver would be Clark College. A contest had been held to select the name.

Central School in Battle Ground boasts building address and new outbuildings by 1915.

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Central School in Battle Ground boasts building address and new outbuildings by 1915.

The first Yacolt school house in 1885.

Yacolt High School chemistry students, 1917.

Girls dormitory at Providence Academy, ca. 1876.

Girls dormitory at Providence Academy, ca. 1876.

Central School in Battle Ground boasts building address and new outbuildings by 1915.

Vancouver High School's Class of 1890.

Vancouver High School's Class of 1890.
Industry

KEEPS CLARK COUNTY AFLOAT

STANDIFER

MAY 30, 1918: The ship Kenac was launched, the first from the Standifer Vancouver shipyard.

JULY 12, 1918: The Mosabos and the Bonanza were launched at the Vancouver Standifer yards, the second and third vessels launched there. Charles M. Schwab, the great steel industrialist, who during World War I was director general of the Emergency Fleet Corporation, was present at the launchings.

APR. 28, 1921: The Standifer Company launched its final 12,000 ton ship at Vancouver - a tanker, the Albertolite. It was the last ship in the yard.

ALCOA

JAN. 4, 1940: The Aluminum Company of America filed deed for a 215-acre tract below Vancouver with county auditor, this to be the ALCOA factory site. Price, $10,000.

AUG. 31, 1940: Bonneville power was turned on for the first time at ALCOA. - Open house at ALCOA, Sept. 3, 1940.

JAN. 1, 1941: ALCOA reported that since its opening in Sept. 1940 it had produced 10,017,000 pounds of aluminum.

KAISER

JULY 12, 1943: The first 60 units of Fruit Valley Homes were opened; to be occupied by ALCOA workers.

NOV. 17, 1942: A tank-landing craft was assembled in record time, 71 1/2 hours, at the Kaiser shipyards, completed and launched. Dec. 22, 1942, the tank-landing vessels assignments at the Kaiser yards stood completed.

APR. 6, 1943: The first airplane carrier launched on the Pacific Coast took to the water at the Kaiser shipyard, Vancouver. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was the sponsor, christening it the Alazon Bay. 75,000 witnessed the rite.

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DEC. 31, 1943: It was reported that 65 vessels had been launched at the Kaiser Vancouver shipyard since the outbreak of World War II; $200,000,000 worth.

JUNE 8, 1944: The final aircraft carrier at the Kaiser shipyard was launched - the U. S. S. Munda, sponsor, Mrs. James E. Dyer.

AUG. 17, 1945: The Vancouver Kaiser shipyard at the end of the day closed the plate shop, cutting 4,800 employees from the payroll. - On Apr. 15, 1946, there were only 3,000 remaining on the payroll.

MAY 21, 1946: The U. S. Maritime Commission announced that the Kaiser shipyard at Vancouver was one of four in the country to remain intact and under operation of the Kaiser Co. for future construction and repair work.

The U.S.S. Casablanca (also known as the Amzer and the Alazon Bay) launched at Kaiser Shipyards, Vancouver on April 5, 1943.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt visits ALCOA November 1942.
**Law and Disorder**

**ABOVE THE FOLD**

**FROM TOTS IN TROUBLE TO BOOTLEG BUSTS**

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**PROHIBITION**

**Aug. 30, 1861:** An attempt was made to assassinate Judge J. E. Wyche at his home “1 1/2 miles above Vancouver.” Gunshot through door. No one injured.

**Dec. 1866:** Some boys illegally cut Christmas trees in the public square, now Esther Short Park.

**June 29, 1896:** Marshal O’Neil of Vancouver arrested a Portland bicyclist “for traversing the streets – without a bell on his bike. The biker left $3, all he had, with the city justice for his appearance Monday.” He did not show up.

**Mar. 19, 1950:** Jo Ann Dewey, 18, of the Battle Ground area was forcibly abducted by two men at 13th and “D” streets, Vancouver, about 11:30 p.m. – March 26, the girl’s body was found in the Wind River, near Carson, by Fishermen. – Mar. 30, two Clark County boys, Truman and Utah Wilson, were arrested in Sacramento, California, and charged with the murder, then brought back to Vancouver. – A sensational trial followed; the men, convicted of first degree murder, resorted to appeals and other adroit legal maneuvers to escape the penalty, but some months later were executed at Walla Walla.

**Apr. 20, 1955:** Vancouver Police began using radar in checking vehicle speeds.

**Nov. 3, 1914:** The State, Clark County, and Vancouver all voted “dry” on local option. Clarke County’s vote was “dry” 5,646, “wet” 5,191.

**Oct. 14, 1921:** The Japanese freighter Kalky Maru was raided by Sheriff Thompson in Vancouver harbor. Federal officers assisted. They found 200 cases of liquor.

**Nov. 24, 1923:** Sheriff William Thompson found an electrically equipped winery at 1310 Harney Street, Vancouver; also 2,500 gallons of “Xmas cheer” (wine) three miles from Vancouver on the “Battle Ground Highway.”

**Nov. 19, 1925:** “The largest still ever knocked over in Clarke County” – capacity, 10 gallons of moonshine per hour – was raided. Two arrested. 2,000 gallons of mash and 100 gallons of liquor were seized. This at Prune Hill.

**Jan. 27, 1927:** (Raids on moonshiners continued vigorously under Sheriff Lester Wood). A large, cleverly hidden underground still with a capacity of thirty gallons was raided at Sifton. – The operator was fined $1,000 and given six months in jail.

**Apr. 6, 1933:** A law legalizing 3.2% beer had been passed by Congress and signed by the President on March 22, 1933; so a celebration had been planned in Vancouver, but it fizzled completely when it was found that there was no beer, even though the city council had granted permits to sell.

**Aug. 29, 1933:** Clark County voted “wet,” 13,866 to 7,976, sending repeal delegates to the State convention to act on the repeal of the 18th Amendment of the U. S. Constitution. – The statewide vote was about 2 1/2 to 1 “wet.”

**Aug. 21, 1903:** Andrew Johnson, “A tot apparently not over 7 or 8 years of age” was placed in the Clarke County jail “to answer before the Superior Court on a charge of burglary” from Fourth Plain.

**Dec. 29, 1932:** The car of Lee Schlesinger, “Portland merchant” and sportsman, was found in the Columbia River at the foot of Main Street, Vancouver. He was believed drowned. – He was located in South America in 1954. – Definitely located in Rio de Janeiro under an assumed name.
Oct. 13, 1879: Ex-President Ulysses S. Grant, returning homeward from his trip around the world, visited Vancouver. His arrival at the government wharf was greeted by a 21-gun salute and by military and civilian officials. Parade and fireworks. The following day a great reception was held at the public park (now Esther Short Park). Speeches and reply by Grant.

Oct. 2, 1880: President Rutherford B. Hayes visited Vancouver, the first President in office over to do so. Guest at the Barracks. He remained over Sunday the 5rd, when he attended the Methodist Church, then at 8th and Washington. Left for up-river on the 4th. On his return on the 7th he came ashore from the steamboat to greet assembled children and others at the wharf.

Oct. 11, 1881: President William Howard Taft spoke for ten minutes from the train at Vancouver station. A large crowd present. The President received a gift of two boxes of choice Clarke County prunes.

Aug. 21, 1920: Franklin D. Roosevelt, then candidate for vice president on the Democratic (Cox) ticket, spoke to a "large crowd" in Esther Short Park, Vancouver.

July 4, 1923: President Warren G. Harding made a short address from the rear platform of his special train, 10:50 p.m. at Vancouver. 5,000 people on hand. The reception committee presented him with 50 pounds of select Clarke County prunes.

Oct. 18, 1944: Harry S. Truman, Democratic candidate for vice-president, spoke at an evening rally at Vancouver.

Oct. 8, 1948: Henry A. Wallace, former Vice President of the U.S., and candidate for President on the Progressive party ticket in 1948, stopped in Vancouver and had a brief conference with party leaders.
MAy 27, 1860: St. Luke’s Episcopal Church in Vancouver, 7th and “C” streets, dedicated by Bishop Thomas F. Scott. – Built in 1858.

1863: The first Baptist Church built in Washington Territory erected at Brush Prairie.

JAN. 23, 1867: The first meeting of several that led to the establishment of Vancouver Seminary was held at the Methodist Church, 8th and “B” (Washington) streets, Vancouver.

FEB. 10, 1881: Reported from La Center that the Methodists were about to build a church there on two lots donated by Mr. Timmen.

AUG. 11, 1882: The newly-formed Union Ridge (Ridgefield) Presbyterian Church was accepted by the Presbytery of Puget Sound.

SUMMER 1883: The Highland Lutheran Church, 5 miles north-east of La Center, was built and services begun. – The congregation commemorated the 70th anniversary in the same building during the week of Sept. 13, 1953.

JULY 27, 1884: The corner stone of the new cathedral (now St. James Church) at Vancouver was laid with imposing ceremony.

MAR. 29, 1890: Regular Salvation Army work in Vancouver began “on the corner of 5th and Main by two officers of the organization.”

DEC. 29, 1890: The First Christian Church of Vancouver was organized by E. C. Sanderson, 54 members. The first building was at 15th and Grant streets, dedicated in 1892.

AUG. 12, 1912: The new Seventh Day Adventist Church building was dedicated.

AUG. 25, 1912: The Swedish church at Venersborg was dedicated.

JUNE 8, 1923: The Bethel non-denominational church in Vancouver had accepted the Four Square Gospel of Aimee McPherson, its pastor announced.

JUNE 29, 1946: The new Seventh Day Adventist Church building was dedicated.

JUNE 29, 1951: Groundbreaking ceremonies were held for the new church of the Latter Day Saints (Mormons) at Neals Lane and 29th Street, Vancouver.

SEPT. 2, 1951: Elim Lutheran Church at Hockinson was dedicated.

DEC. 29, 1957: Services were held for the first time in the new Faith Church of the Nazarenes at Battle Ground.
A SPIRIT OF PROGRESS AND INNOVATION

FEB. 5, 1889: Electric lights were turned on in Vancouver for the first time in its history. The system was city owned and operated.

JULY 22, 1882: “The new telegraph line from Washougal to Woodland reached Vancouver, and an office has been established with Hitchcock Brothers.”

JUNE 15, 1911: The first successful airplane flight ever made over Vancouver was made by Charles F. Walsh in his new Curtiss-Farman-Walsh biplane.


SEPT. 20, 1952: First TV broadcasting came to Vancouver, when Portland’s first station, KPTV, went on the air. The rush for television sets “was frantic;” for dealers were caught by surprise when the first telecast was scheduled earlier than anticipated.

JULY 7, 1964: “Vancouver’s newest radio station (KHFS), said to be the first high fidelity AM station in the United States,” went on the air at 5500 Fourth Plain Avenue. – Open House on July 10.

SEPT. 14, 1927: Charles A. Lindbergh flew over Vancouver to land at Swan Island, Portland, to the disappointment of local people, who had hoped that he would land at Pearson Field. On Sept. 16, he returned, circled low over Pearson Field, and dropped greetings.

Surgeons at Northern Pacificare Foundation Hospital in Vancouver (1946-1959). Built to serve Kaiser Shipyard employees, this was the first Kaiser Foundation hospital in the Pacific Northwest.

Russian crew land their plane, The Land of the Soviets, at Pearson Air Field for minor repairs in 1929.

Live radio broadcast of event to benefit local fire fighters.

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A Diuretic for the Kidneys

50,000 Users Publicly Endorse Doan’s:
J. R. Morgan, 304 Gilpin Ave., Denver, Colo., says: “I had a constant burning across my back and at one time walked up for ten days. Therido capsules were dried and unhealthy; I had pains in the back of my head and felt weak for all of the time. Doan’s Pills helped me so much that I can really recommend them.”

STOPS Pain and itching from Piles!
FREE with every box purchased.

For Rheumatism and Arthrosis

The purchaser of Electrobodes is granted the privilege of returning them within 30 days, and the purchase price ($2.00) in case the articles are not returned in original condition. They are to be worn according to directions for at least 35 consecutive days, and then if not satisfactory, to be returned in original box.

Druggist’s Signature

J. C. Wyatt, Vancouver, Wash.
Charity, Character, and Contribution...

MAY 31, 1911: The Vancouver Elks dedicated their new temple at 10th near Washington Street. The Vancouver Columbian issued a special edition in honor of the event, detailing the history of the Vancouver Elks’ lodge.

FEB. 22, 1917: A VANCOUVER HISTORICAL SOCIETY was formed with Glenn Ranck as chairman. A committee was appointed to draw up a constitution, consisting of Mrs. H. C. Funk, Foster Hidden, Charles W. Hall, and Patrick Hough.

JAN. 7, 1896: A debate on the question “Is there a Supreme Being?” began at Vancouver Christian Church and continued for five nights.

Rev. W. L. Skeels of the Church of God at Scholl’s Ferry, Oregon had the affirmative; Mr. C. B. Reynolds of the Secular Union of Seattle had the negative.

The crowd proved too large for the church, so the debate was transferred to the Standard Theatre. The debate was conducted in the most courteous and gentlemanly manner. –Standing room was at a premium. No decision was attempted.

MAY 7, 1909: A German-American singing society, the Liederkrantz, was organized at Vancouver.

MAY 27, 1910: At a meeting of the Vancouver Automobile Club “it was moved to purchase an automobile road book from the Club at Seattle, and also one from the club in Portland. These will show every road in the state and be of great value to any member who desires to make a trip into unknown territory.”

APR. 2, 1921: The Vancouver Rotary Club received its charter. There was a ceremony and banquet at the Y. W. C. A. Hall. John Todd was the first president.

JULY 22, 1921: “La Société des 40 Hommes et 8 Chevaux” was formed at the club rooms of the American Legion at Vancouver.

OCT. 31, 1921: The American Legion community building at 15th and Broadway streets, Vancouver, was opened. The Elks had charge of the program. Between 3,000 and 4,000 persons attended.

Vancouver Rotary members ‘kidding around’ May 17, 1922.

Newspaper publisher Thurston Daniels, proponent of women’s suffrage, was a founding member of the Clark County Equal Rights Association.

Elks Lodge chefs at fish fry in Vancouver, June 1917.

Camp Fire girls during 1925 Centennial Celebrations.

Prune Queen Faye Vance, 1919.

Parade float for the Fourth of July.

Hello Everybody. EDNA WALLACE HOPPER. Tonight.

The One Woman In The World Who Knows The Truth About The Losers, Movers Of The Secret Societies Of Men, Their Names And Chic. Watch your local N. B. C. stations TUNE IN.
From the Race Track to the Dugout

**SEPT. 1846:** Horse racing at Fort Vancouver, well attended “passed off with great Éclat – open to the whole territory.”

**MAY 29, 1867:** The first baseball game known in which a Vancouver team participated. Score: Vancouver Occidentals, 62; Portland Pioneers, 79.

**NOV. 2, 1885:** A great sports event for the period took place near Woodland, W. T. – a prize fight between Jack Dempsey, noted middle weight “champion of the world” (not the more recent heavyweight) and the challenging Dave Campbell of Portland. “Steamers carried parties from Portland, Vancouver, Astoria and elsewhere to the battlefield.” Dempsey won in the third round. “About $25,000 changed hands – several thousand of which was won by Dempsey.”

**APR. 11, 1889:** The Clarke County Cyclers Club was organized at a meeting of the wheelmen (cyclists.) On April 14, permanent officers were chosen: C. Brown, president; F. Russell, vice president; E. Scanlon, secretary; and W. Byron Daniels, treas. An ordinance was drawn up to be presented to the city council called for a $1 license fee for all bicyclists to be paid to the city treasurer, and credited to a “bicycle road fund,” for use in constructing bicycle paths.

**FEB. 20, 1925:** The Yacolt high school basketball team, Clarke County champions, became the Southwestern Washington Class “B” champions by defeating Ilwaco at Centralia, 32 to 22. Seeking the State championship the Yacolt team lost to Yakima, 33 to 14, on March 14, 1925.

**MAY 13, 1949:** The newly lighted baseball diamond at Kiggins Bowl was opened with a game between Clark and Centralia junior colleges.

**JAN. 26, 1847:** Game of curling on the frozen Columbia between officers of the British warship Modeste and officers of the H. B. Company at Fort Vancouver. The former won. The first record of sports outside of horse racing in the area.

**MAY 7, 1977:** Reported that “croquet has become the all absorbing game in Vancouver. Base ball is nowhere.”

**SEPT. 29, 1895:** Reported that the Vancouver High School football team had defeated the Portland High School team, 14 to 4. “Portland rooters routed – they came to crown and went home whipped.”

**MAY 8, 1994:** Reported from Felida: “A number of the young folks from this place went for a hand-car ride. They reported an excellent time and will go for another soon.”

**La Center women’s basketball team, 1908.**