

# WATERWAYS

COOS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY • SPRING 2015 • WWW.COOSHISTORY.ORG



*Volunteers and tow truck driver maneuver John Deere wagon on to the truck for transport to new museum.*



## Opening Day!

The Coos History Museum plans to open May 31st with exhibits. Look for information about specific times and events on our Facebook page, in the local media, or in emails sent out to Historical Society members.

## How to Move a John Deere Wagon

Transporting one of the largest artifacts in the CHM collection, the 100-year-old John Deere wagon, required a great deal of innovative thinking.

In early March, CHM volunteers **Pat Cross** and **Nat Jaeggli** designed and built a wheeled sled for the wagon to permanently rest on. The sled acted as a support base during the wagon's transit between museum buildings and will allow for easier movement of the wagon while creating exhibits, never having to use the wagon's own fragile wheels.

In order to move the wagon out of the old museum building, the front doors and door frame had to be removed. Two crews worked simultaneously. While **Rigo Hinojosa** and **Gold Coast Security** workers dismantled the doors and frame, Cross and Jaeggli and museum staff securing the wagon to the sled. With great care, the sled was eased through the doorway with 1-inch

clearance on either side. While the door frame, doors and security system were reinstalled, the wagon/sled was pulled onto the tilted bed of **North Bend Towing's** flatbed truck via cables. Once secured, the wagon was driven to the new building and unloaded through the large barn door into the lower exhibit hall.

General contractor **Scott Partney's** amazing workmen secured the wagon/sled to a forklift and lifted it above the railing on the mezzanine. Once the load was moved forward, it was set on jacks and slowly lowered safely into place on the second floor. Only then did all involved exhale and cheer their collective success.

Collection Manager **Vicki Wiese's** advice after the successful move - "Don't try this at home!"

To see a short video, go to the Facebook page of Coos History Museum, and scroll down to "Videos" on the left.

## Kudos and Thanks For Helping Hands:

Bill Mast  
Brian Sullivan  
Clean Rivers Erosion Control  
Cody Skoff  
Coos Art Museum  
Coos Bay Fire Department  
Coos Bay Transfer  
Day Ship Supply  
Eric Kohler  
John Engels  
Logan Shields  
Nat Jaeggli  
North Bend Fire Department  
North Bend Parks Department  
North Bend Towing  
Partney Construction  
Pat Cross  
Ralph Mohr  
Reese Electric  
Rigo Hinojosa  
Sause Bros Ocean and Towing  
Steve and Joan Greif  
Y Marina  
Weyerhaeuser  
Will Sherrill

# On the Mezzanine: Farm Life

As anyone who attended CHM's *Off the Pallet* event knows, a mezzanine bridges the main exhibit hall. That space gives us another thousand square feet to tell more stories of Coos County and the South Coast.

The first of those stories will be about agriculture as a business and a way of living for farm families and rural neighborhoods. The exhibit we're adapting to tell this story was produced for the National Endowment for the Humanities to travel nationally through a program called NEH On the Road. After a record-setting run, that exhibit is retiring here in Coos Bay and will form the backbone of our interpretation of regional farm life.

The exhibit ~ entitled *Farm Life: A Century of Change of the Farm Families and Their Neighbors* ~ examines what it means for a family to live and work on the land. The exhibit is divided into four sections: the farmhouse, fields, barn and gathering places in the larger community. In each section, photographs, objects and labels tell the story of life on a farm.

Through these items and other interactive pieces, audiences who view *Farm Life* learn about the social, economic and cultural framework of farms and their surrounding communities. Though the starting place is a Chippewa Valley, Wisconsin, farmstead around 1950, universal themes of family and community are addressed, touching on issues that resonate with farming and non-farming viewers alike.

The 20th century brought profound changes for farm families and their neighbors. In 1900, 42 percent of the United States population worked in agriculture, but, by 2000, less than two percent of the population was involved in farm production. Through generations of dramatic economic and social change, some families have maintained their connections to farming, their land



Staff members **Vicki Wiese** and **Michelle Nash** unpack one of 11 crates of exhibit materials. The "Farm Life" story will be told from the national and local perspective.

and the rural communities in which they live and work.

The exhibit traveled around America for more than seven years, from 2005 to 2012. It engaged visitors at 40 venues in 24 states. It traveled as far east as Easton, Maryland, and as far west as Dublin, California. It journeyed the country corner to corner, from Moses Lake, Washington, to Ocala, Florida. Its travels even included one stop in Oregon, at the Hood River Historical Museum.

The National Agricultural Center and Hall of Fame in Kansas hosted it, as did the San Diego County Fair in Del Mar. More than a million people saw it. It stayed on the road longer than any other NEH On the Road exhibit ever has. How did it end up retiring here?

CHM Director **Frank Smoot** helped develop the idea and wrote the content (what museums call "label text"), and when it retired, Frank had first dibs. *Farm Life* will fill the CHM mezzanine for a relatively short time, no more than a year, and then another exhibit will take its place.

What will become of *Farm Life* then? Will it travel in retirement? Maybe. But, if not, the clever, adaptable casework will be the museum's to keep ~ and to adapt to other content and tell other compelling stories.

## Coos County Historical Society

### Staff

Executive Director: Frank Smoot  
Collections Manager: Vicki Wiese  
Assistant Collections Manager:  
Michelle Nash  
Bookkeeper: Terri Knight

### Board of Trustees

President: Joe Slack  
Vice-President: Bill Mast  
Secretary: Anne Guerin  
Treasurer: Karen O'Donnell  
Trustees: Toni Ann Brend, Ann Collins, Lucinda DiNovo, Steve Greif, Jan Hooper, Darla Lesan, Jon Littlefield, Jerry Phillips, Toni Poole, Sally Prouty, Arlene Roblan, Carl Siminow, Barbara Taylor, Carol Ventgen, Paul Walton

# The Organic Conversion

By Bill Mast

Coos County has a long history of dairying, going back to the arrival of the first cows in 1853 when Alfred Collver drove a herd overland from the Umpqua Valley on the Roseburg Trail to the Coos Bay area. Later that same year, Christopher Long brought cows onto his homestead near present-day Bandon. A dairy industry soon developed with farmers selling butter and surplus fluid milk to logging camps and individual households.

As dairy farming expanded, markets in San Francisco opened for Coos County products. In 1870, Anson and Elizabeth Rodgers established the county's first cheese factory on their Coos River farm. Others soon followed the Rodgers' lead. For most of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, dairy farmers produced butter and cheese on their own farms. In the late 1880s, centrally located creameries and cheese factories began replacing farmstead cheese and butter-making. By the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, off-farm facilities manufactured virtually all cheese and butter in Coos County.

The marketing of fluid milk expanded along with the county's population. Dairy farmers sold milk in one- or five-gallon pails, often establishing routes and hauling their product on hand carts or horse-drawn wagons. In 1906, George Ross Sr. and George Black opened the first bottling plant in the county, followed by J. W. Russell and Sons in 1907. Within a few years, small, on-farm bottling plants served every town in the area. Large processors and retailers gradually replaced the farmer/bottler. The last small-scale milk bottler, Gordon Ross' Cherry Grove Dairy, closed in the late 1980s.

Dairy farming grew throughout the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. By 1950, the Coos County dairy herd numbered 16,000 cows on 500 dairy farms. By the mid-1950s, dairy farm numbers began to drop. Low prices, high capital costs, opportunities for high-wage off-farm

jobs, a younger generation choosing not to farm, and the conversion from 10-gallon cans to refrigerated bulk tanks all contributed to this decline. Former dairies were consolidated into larger farms, converted to beef or sheep production or, depending on location, reverted to either forest or wetlands. By 1990, fewer than 40 dairies remained.

Alarmed by the disappearance of so many of their colleagues, dairy farmers began exploring ways to increase the viability of their operations. One of the options considered was organic production. Modern-day organic farming started in England during the late

1930s, the brainchild of Sir

Albert and Gabrielle

Howard. In 1940,

J. I. Rodale estab-

lished an organic

farm in Pennsylva-

nia and eventually

became head of the

Rodale Institute, which promoted organic agriculture in the U. S. For the next 50 years, "organic" became somewhat of a confusing term in this country, with many certifying agencies and individual farmers having their own definitions.

In 1990, Congress passed the Organic Foods Production Act as part of the 1990 Farm Bill. The legislation set up a 15-member board with seven sub-committees to develop a "National

List of Approved and Prohibited Substances". The Board also determined what types of farming practices were approved for organic production. As part of a political deal with food processors and retailers, the U. S. Department of Agriculture agreed not to regulate the word "natural" in exchange for regulating "organic". To this day, the word "natural", when used to describe food, has no legal definition.

In 1997, Arago dairy farmers Doug and Sharon Sinko became the first certified organic dairy in the Pacific Northwest. They shipped their milk to Portland where it was processed

into fluid milk for sale in local

stores. The premium price they

received soon convinced other

local dairymen to follow. Ear-

ly converts to organic dairy-

ing included Tom and Diane

Brown of Myrtle Point, Bob

® and Nanette Ross in Lee Valley,

and the Shull dairy in Coquille. Within ten years, all but two dairy farms in the county were certified organic.

Attaining organic certification is a rather long and involved process. Land must be managed under organic regulations for three years prior to certification, and cows for one year which is concurrent with the third year of land certification. The certification process can be financially stressful since farmers operate under strict organic rules



*Miss Forlets at family farm in Norway, OR.*





Volunteer **Steve Greif** helps staff unpack display cases for the "Farm Life" exhibit. One of several planned "hands-on" activities will be this fiberglass calf designed with younger museum visitors in mind.

while selling in the conventional market. Oregon Tilth acts as the certifying agency for farmers in Coos County.

Organic rules prohibit the application to the land of any fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides derived from petrochemicals. Any seed used must be certified organic. Genetically modified organisms are prohibited both on the land and for use with livestock. No hormones to promote growth and milk production can be used. Organic standards do not allow for antibiotic use, except as a life-saving measure. Animals treated with antibiotics lose their certification and must be removed from the herd. (Cows treated with antibiotics under conventional rules have their milk discarded during treatment and for 2 - 5 days after.) Cows must graze at least 120 days per year. Any purchased feed must come from certified organic farms and processors. Organic farmers undergo annual certification inspections and keep detailed records of all inputs used and when and where grazing occurred. Violations of organic standards can result in the revoking of a farm's certification.

Substances allowed in organic agriculture include lime and bone meal for soils, pyrethrin (flower-based) insecticides, and herbal remedies for animal

health. All vaccinations are also allowed. The USDA publishes an annually updated list of approved products and substances for organic use. Biological controls, such as beneficial insects, and cultural practices, including crop rotation and nitrogen-fixing legumes, are encouraged. Manure applied to the land acts as the primary fertilizer.

County organic dairies market their milk through Organic Valley Co-operative, headquartered in LaFarge, Wisconsin. There are over 1,800 co-op farms in 32 states and three Canadian provinces, making it the world's largest organic co-operative. Organic

Valley does not operate any processing plants on the West Coast, but contract with other processors to handle their milk. Darigold processes about 95% of Coos County milk in its Portland facility. Nancy's Yogurt in Springfield purchases the remainder. Organic regulations allow for organic milk to be processed in the same plants as conventional milk, providing that the organic milk is "first run" during the day's processing.

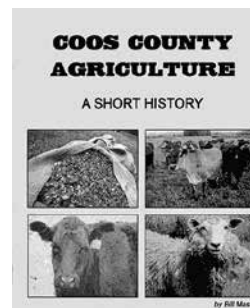
Ten dairy farms - nine organic and one conventional - remain in Coos County today. They range in size from 100 cows to nearly 1,000, with a total cow population of around 4,000. The conventional dairy supplies milk to Face Rock Creamery in Bandon. Coos County's long grazing season

and mild climate fit the organic model quite well. Farmers have a large enough land base to produce a major proportion of their own feed, thus minimizing one of the major expenses in organic dairying. In most cases, the premium price for organic milk offsets the higher costs involved. Although there have been occasions where conventional milk was at or near the organic price, organic dairies generally receive a 40-50% price premium. Due to depressed conventional prices at the moment, organic prices are more than double those of conventional milk.

Doug and Sharon Sinko's pioneering spirit in 1997 has resulted in Coos County becoming a major player in organic dairy production on the West Coast. The compatibility of local conditions to the organic model has offset the disadvantages of geographic location that has plagued Coos County agriculture in the past.



100-year-old farm wagon is lowered onto the mezzanine for the agricultural exhibit at CHM.



**Bill Mast** of Lee Valley in southern Coos County retired from the dairy business in 2011 and spent two years researching his 2013 book "Coos County Agriculture: A Short History." Mast serves as on the CCHS Board of Trustees.

# Welcome New and Renewing Members

Dec 1, 2014 – March 15, 2015

Note: Life Members to be listed in next issue of Waterways.

## New Benefactors

Finlayson, Cindy  
Rueger, Gregory & Barbara  
Wegner, John & Beth

## Renewing Benefactors

Burgher, Wm & Corliss  
Cooper, Robert & Beverly  
Farr, Linda & Jay  
Ivy, Donald  
Janke, Paul & Patricia  
Macy, Robt  
Mattecheck, Wm & Hillery  
Montalbano, Jim & Ellen  
Poole, Arthur & Toni  
Straus, Roger  
Veldstra, Brad

## New Businesses

Georgia Bunn Studios, LLC  
Mckelvey MD, Carla  
Treezz  
Yellow Cab Taxi



*Cody Skoff works in the library to pack up the Victor West photo albums.*

## Renewing Businesses

Betty Kay Charters  
Burles, John S, CPA  
Coos Bay Grocery Outlet  
Coos Bay Yacht Club  
Coquille Animal Hospital  
Gold Coast Truck Repair  
Honda World  
Huggins Insurance  
Lee Valley Dairy  
Lesan, Jerry & Darla  
Lone Rock Timber Mgmt  
Pekny, Frank & Helen  
Riggi, Kayvon & Paula  
Taylor, R Georga  
Terry, Ted & Carolyn

Vend West Services Inc  
White Painting, JW

## New Family

Abel, Bryan & Linda  
Argenta, Kelly  
Batdorff, James & Alfreda  
Callery, Martin & Suzy  
Cooper, Jon & Catherine  
Shindler  
Crane, Dave  
Cribbins, Robert  
Emm, Joan  
Gibson, Michael & Linda  
Gochmour, Kristina  
Goodman, Jay & Suzanne  
Groves, Julie  
Hargens, Randy & Mary Jane  
Grant

Hogan, Mike & Cindy  
Rawlings  
Jackson, Nicole & Brian  
Gumbs  
Johnson, Roger & Ellen  
Juroan, David & Susan  
Kenyon, George & Karen  
Luther, Char  
Main, Mike & Sharon  
Nasby, Dean & Shelley  
Neill, Joe & Maria  
Robertson, Daniel & Mary  
Rudder, Richard & Wendy  
Smith, Don & Jeanne  
Socomon, Allen & Jean  
Adamson  
Stevenson, Calum & Barb  
Swanson, Bruce & Barbara  
Taylor, Barb & Steven Fowler  
Vaughn, Mike  
Washburn, Mike & Eura  
Weyer, Pat & Ruth

## Renewing Family

Ahuna, George & Eva  
Anderson, Michael & Janet  
Hagge  
Archer, Sam & Sandi  
Barton, Jon & Patricia  
Bathrick, Ray & Sherry  
Bauer, Ken & Diane  
Beauchamp, Carol  
Beckett, Art & Janna  
Bjorkquist-Holmes, Susan  
Blom, Don & Renee  
Bonk, Robt & Joyce  
Borcher, Patricia  
Brend, Orlin & Toni Ann  
Bunch, Wilton  
Chadwick/Southgag

Clarke, Jim & Nancy  
Close, Larry and Pat  
Conner, Carlton & Janell  
Cook, Joe & Anne  
Cooney, Hannah  
Coraor, Robt & Susan  
Corrigan, Randal  
David, Karen & Bruce  
Davis, Harry & Victoria  
DeJong, Pamela  
DeLeon, Adrian & Jenni  
Denton, Ken & Cathy  
Douthit, Nathan & Eva  
Dugger, Glenn & Kathi  
Durrer, Michael & Jan  
Fereday, James

*An employee of Coos Bay Transfer moves artifact boxes with a pallet jack at the new museum.*



Fischer, Suzanne  
Flaxel, Benton  
Fox, Rick  
Gebhardt, Dan & Bonnie  
Gehlert, Gary & Janet  
Gill, Dick & Mary  
Goche', Rick  
Goude, Dennis & Judy  
Gould, David & Donna  
Graham, Steven & Debra  
Granger, Robt & Julie  
Graves, James & Suzanne  
Graybill, Mike  
Gregor, Gary & Martha  
Greif, Michael & Marti  
Greif, Steve & Joan  
Griffin, Thomas & Barbara  
Harpole, Ronald & Joan  
Henke, Joe & Rachel  
Hess, Larry & Patricia  
Hoffman, Jack & Lucy  
Holland, Tristan & Colleen  
Hooper, Steve & Jan  
Howard, Chuck & Mary  
Huggins, Robert & Janet  
Johnson, Larry & Cindy  
Juil, Rudy & Mary Jo  
Karavanich, Kipp & Vickie  
Keller, Diana  
Kelley, John & Bette  
Kendrick, Wm & Joan  
Kinney, Herb & Betsie  
Lagasse, Philip & Lisa  
Leberti, Louis & Kathleen  
Littlefield, Jon & Lee  
Lunde, David  
Mahaffy, Robt  
Mast, Dan & Lisa  
McKillip, Patricia & David  
Lunde  
McMichael, Don & Sharon

Means, Steve  
Metzger, Ron & Kathy  
Michel, John & Gary Salcedo  
Miller, Steve and Linda  
Morrison, Len  
Muenchrath, John & Mary  
Murray, Wayne & Carol  
Newhouse, Kathryn  
Noffsinger, Gary & Virginia  
Nored, Richard  
Nowlin, Thomas & Susan  
Oliva, George & Marcia  
Ottmiller, Dennis & Susan  
Parker, Joy  
Payton, Lynda

Pedro, Robt & Shirley  
Petterson, Mark & Linda  
Petty, Al & Marion  
Pittz, Kevin & Kathy  
Poage, Donald & Joanne  
Poitra, Dorothy  
Pratt, Ken & Betty  
Prouty, Sally J  
Quinn, Michael & Lindi  
Recken, Sarah & Robert  
Sasanoff  
Roberts, Steven  
Roblan, Arnie & Arlene  
Ross, Gordon & Wilma  
Rueger, Gregory & Barbara  
Sasser, Brent & Lindsey  
Sharples, Caspar & Kate  
Shoji, Gene & Crystal  
Simon, Gary & Diane  
Solomon, Lola  
Stebbins, Mike & Mary Lou  
Stickler, Barbara & Dean  
Sweatt, Dana & Linda  
Swenson, Ed & Judy  
Terry, Patrick  
Terwilliger, Nora  
Teyler, Bob & Sharon  
Tinker, George & Carole  
Underwood, Bill & Barbara  
Ventgen, Carol & George  
Verger, James & Diane  
Vernon, Roger & Maren  
Wentzel, Rocky & Jill  
Wiese-Segal, Stacey & Kevin  
Wirth, Bart & Sue  
Woods, Darel & Shirley  
Wright, Will & Doreen  
Yunker, Tom & Diana  
Youst, Lionel & Hilda  
Zarder, Kurt & Dianne

### New Individual

Anderson, Jay  
 Blasco, Chris  
 Bream, Jennifer  
 Brooks, Stephen  
 Chilla, Barbara  
 Crooks, Richard  
 Groves, Emily  
 Harrold, Sally  
 Humphrey, Mary  
 Johnson, Janice  
 Landrum, Dr Gene  
 Lewellyn, Mary Ann  
 Lewis, Betsy  
 Macgruder, John  
 McMann, Ann  
 Moody, Judy  
 Nylander, Carol

Paczesniak, Virginia  
 Russell-Miller, Mary  
 Salazar, Noreen  
 Shearer, Richard  
 Smith, Charles  
 Stewart, Nancylee

### Renewing Individual

Anderson, Susan  
 Archerd, Sandra  
 Arnold, Glennora  
 Atkins, Del  
 Beauchemin, Rhoda  
 Brainard, Muriel  
 Cummings, Heide  
 Doving, Helen  
 Eck, Betty  
 Gapp, Ray

Glabau, Vivian  
 Greif, Nadiene  
 Grenell, Norman  
 Groben, Elizabeth "Betsy"  
 Hammer, Karen  
 Hodgkin, Katherine  
 Ivy, Gladys  
 Knips, Michael  
 Koreiva, MJ  
 Leahy, Tom  
 Martin, Ruth Marie  
 Messerle, Donald E  
 Mohr, Ralph  
 Ohman, Betty  
 Paczesniak, Mary  
 Palmateer, Charlotte  
 Philpott, James  
 Pike, Peter

Porter, Barbara  
 Proehl, James A  
 Pruhsmeier, Karen  
 Rollicheck, Sally  
 Sandberg, Blanche  
 Schwemmer, Robt  
 Sharp, Gary L  
 Simons, Lester

Slover, Charles  
 Strine, Linda  
 Tracey, Diane  
 Wegner, Maxeen  
 Wheeler, Diana  
 Willis, Janet  
 Worthen, Francine



**Don Richwine** scanning the Victor West Collection. Don's wife **Carol** helps with research library. She describes and does data entry of ledgers, books, yearbooks, and other documents.

## Donations

Dec 1, 2014 - March 15, 2015

### Building & Operations

Ahuna, George & Eva  
 Anderson, Michael & Janet Hagge  
 Anderson, Susan  
 Auer, Steven & Jeanine  
 Barron, Richard  
 Batdorff, James & Alfreda  
 Baughman, Gerald & Carol  
 Bechtold, Paula  
 Beesley, Ralph & Dorothy  
 Biesanz, Richard & Franziska  
 Blom, Don & Renee  
 Bloom, Melanie  
 Brainard, Muriel  
 Brands, Anna  
 Brend, Orlin & Toni Ann  
 Burke, Laurie  
 Burke, Russell (Rusty)  
 Callery, Martin & Suzy  
 Capehart, Fran  
 Caughell, Ross & Linda  
 Clarke, Jim & Nancy  
 Clarke, Terrell & Nancy  
 Close, Larry and Pat  
 Collins, Ann  
 Conner, Carlton & Janell  
 Corrigan, Randal  
 Critical Thinking Company  
 Cummings, Heide & Grant  
 Davis, Harry & Victoria  
 Dawson, Peter  
 DeLeon, Adrian & Jenni  
 Dement, Sam & Dorothy  
 Dinovo, Lucinda & Don Ivy  
 Douthit, Nathan & Eva  
 Durrer, Michael & Jan  
 Fox, Rick  
 Gapp, Ray  
 Gibson, Michael & Linda  
 Gillespie, Michael  
 Goude, Dennis & Judy  
 Gould, David & Donna

Graham, Steven & Debra  
 Graves, James & Suzanne  
 Graybill, Mike  
 Groth, Steve & Jennifer  
 Haavig, Steven & Paula Scavera  
 Halvor, Paul & Marilyn  
 Harpole, Ronald & Joan  
 Heintzelman, Conrad & Amber  
 Henke, Joe & Rachel  
 Howard, Chuck & Mary  
 Huggins, Robert & Janet  
 Humphrey-Carvalho, Ellen  
 Irvin, Donald & Dorothy  
 Ivy, Gladys  
 Jansen, Nicholas & Joy  
 Jennings, Bob & Linda  
 Jones, Kirk & Barbara  
 Kincheloe & Sons Inc



*Volunteers secure the Millicoma Family boat for move.*

Kinney, Herb & Betsie  
 Koepke, Charlotte  
 Koontz Machine & Welding  
 Koreiva, MJ  
 Landrum, Dr Gene  
 Leahy, Tom  
 Leberti, Louis & Kathleen  
 Lesan, Jerry & Darla  
 Lew, Dr. Wei M  
 Littlefield, Jon & Lee  
 Littrell, Steven & Becky  
 Littrell, Steven & Becky  
 Lone Rock Timber Mgmt  
 Martin, James & Britta Fink

Mast, Dan & Lisa  
 McClarren, Greg & Elizabeth  
 Messerle, Donald E  
 Metzger, Ron & Kathy  
 Miller, Steve and Linda  
 Mudd Foundation, Mildred & Harvey  
 Muenchrath, John  
 Myrtle Point Rotary Club  
 Nasby, Dean & Shelley  
 O'Donnell, Ed & Karen  
 Ohman, Betty  
 Oliva, George & Marcia  
 Ottemiller, Dennis  
 Paczesniak, Mary  
 Paczesniak, Virginia  
 Parker, Joy  
 Pedro, Robt & Shirley  
 Petterson, Mark & Linda  
 Poole, Arthur & Toni  
 Poppe, Bill & Jolene  
 Porter, Jane  
 Prouty, Sally J  
 Quinn, Michael & Lindi  
 Readel, Elizabeth  
 Recken, Sarah & Robert Sasanoff  
 Richards, Jon & Kathy  
 Robertson, Daniel & Mary  
 Roessler, Thomas & Ruth

Rollicheck, Sally  
 Russell-Miller, Mary  
 Sharp, Gary L  
 Sharples, Caspar & Kate  
 Shearer, Richard  
 Shoji, Gene & Crystal  
 Sickels, Michael & Cheri  
 Simon, Gary & Diane  
 Smith III, Mowry  
 Sprague Jr Foundation, Norman F  
 St. Laurent Jr, Georges  
 Stebbins, Mike & Mary Lou  
 Stender, Duffy & Veneita  
 Taylor, Barb & Steven  
 Terwilliger, Nora  
 Topits, Marilyn  
 Veldstra, Brad  
 Ventgen, Carol & Mike Perkins  
 Wagner, Dick & Judy  
 Walthall, Joan  
 Wegner, John & Beth  
 Wegner, Maxeen  
 Westgaard, Larry & Cheryl  
 Wheeler, Diana  
 White Painting, JW  
 Whitty, John & Teri  
 Wiese-Segal, Stacey & Kevin  
 Willis, Janet  
 Woods, Steven & Jeanne

## New Acquisitions

Derbyshire, Graham & Ramsay - Scrapbooks, photographs, menus, programs, souvenir, and newspaper  
 Goude, Dennis & Judy - Photographs  
 Green, Sally & Jerry - Map  
 Kauffman, Bev - Shoes, plaque, and photograph  
 Koreiva, MJ - Items related to Egyptian Theatre re-opening  
 Shearer, Rick - Scripts and souvenirs related to "Without Limits"  
 Shellaberger, Phil - Model Airplane  
 Soules, Becky - Souvenir  
 Spring, John - Photographs and photo albums  
 Tyler, Donna - Newsletter

# “Off the Pallet” Event Offers First View

February 14 was a day of celebration at the Coos History Museum. Not only was it Valentine’s Day and Oregon’s anniversary of statehood, but the CHM also celebrated the first public viewing of the new building on Front Street in Coos Bay.

Museum staff members **Michelle Nash** and **Tabetha Myatt** spearheaded the event with the help of a cadre of over 30 volunteers who shared information about volunteer opportunities at the CHM. Volunteers donated a total of 115 hours for the event.

Though exhibit cases and displays have not yet been installed, over 350 guests toured the new facility and talked with staff, volunteers and special presenters – **Scott Partney**, general contractor for the building and foreman **Darren Jones**; **Mike Crow**, local architect and museum representative on the building project; and **Don Ivy**, tribal chief of the Coquille Indian Tribe who supervised the tribal youth involved in the cedar-planked walls of the Welcoming Gallery.

Truckloads of artifact storage boxes were on view, many still wrapped on the wooden pallets with many others already organized and stored according to a detailed plan. One storage room on the tour features four banks of compact shelving which, with the turn of a dial,



*“Farm Life” exhibit crates and pallets of artifact storage boxes have moved to the main exhibit hall.*

can be moved along tracks in the floor to separate the rows of shelves for easy access. Each bank of shelving is 14.5 feet in length and six shelves high.

Guests received Pallet passports that were stamped along the tour of the building and redeemed for an event button. CHM member **Rick Shearer** donated the event buttons. Pizzas were delivered from **Dave’s Pizza** to accompany tastings donated by **7 Devils’ Brewery** samples or other beverages.

The fund-raiser garnered nearly \$3,400 in revenue including 37 new and renewing memberships.

Enthusiasm for the new building and its potential as a regional center for county residents and visitors was apparent throughout the afternoon of the event. Much work is still ahead as the move progresses and exhibits are prepared. Thanks to all for attending and making the event an overwhelming success.



*Volunteer **Kendra Larson** helps guests register for door prizes during “Off the Pallet” event.*



*Wiese and Nash organize boxes of artifacts on compact storage shelves.*



1220 Sherman Ave., North Bend OR 97459  
(541) 756-6320 • www.cooshistory.org

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
North Bend, OR 97459  
Permit No. 48

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

## Calendar of Events

- April 15 CCHS Board meeting, 4 pm, Coos History Museum
- April 18 Lionel Youst: Local Labor History, 10 am, Coos History Museum
- April 18 Hot Archaeology/Cool Geology New Approaches for Dating Rock Art, Hales Center for the Performing Arts, SOCC, 7-8 pm
- May 1 Civil War Connections, 5-8 pm, MHS; activities, crafts, presentations. Info: cbcemetery@gmail.com
- May 20 CCHS Board meeting, 4 pm, Coos History Museum
- May 22-24 BBQ, Blues and Brews, The Mill Casino
- May 31 Coos History Museum Opening!
- May 31 United Veterans' Memorial Day Parade, 11 am, downtown Coos Bay
- May 31 Re-dedication 100th Anniversary Sailor-Soldier Monument, 1:30 pm, Marshfield Pioneer Cemetery

## WATERWAYS



*Waterways is the quarterly publication of the Coos County Historical Society.*

*Funding for this newsletter is generously provided by **Ann Collins** who serves on the CCHS Board of Trustees.*