

Our Special Three-Part Event Featuring Bill Lansing's SWOCC Talk

By Hannah Cooney

December 3rd, 2011

the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum book store hosted acclaimed local historian and author **Bill Lansing!** Lansing gave a free lecture on his most recent published work detailing the interesting 50-year history of Southwestern Oregon Community College, followed up by a book signing. Lansing's unyielding generosity rang true through the donation of not only his time, but also copies of his book free copies of his book to the museum book store. Thank you Bill, we owe our success to people like you. Fifteen people attended this three-part event; **Steve Greif** kicked things off with a compelling introduction, followed by a visually captivating movie, and a short speech by Lansing. Members of the audience stuck around for a question and answer session.

This SWOCC-centric event happened to coincide with two other events at the museum that day, the first of which was a museum store sale on model ships. Late 2011 the museum received a large donation of model ships, ship building kits, and model boat building books which we were then able to sell at unbeatably low prices. The CHMM book store still has a few model kits available for that boat lover in your life.

To wrap up this trio of events CHMM kicked off their First Saturday Food Drive! The first Saturday of each month CHMM will give free admission

to any person who donates four non-perishable food items. All food that is collected will go to seniors and people with disabilities through our local office of the State Department of Human Services.



Bill Lansing reading from his new book, *Southwestern Oregon Community College: Fifty Years*.

Pullen, Whitty Retire From Board

By Steve Greif

The CCHS Board is grateful for the volunteer service by two of its key members who each recently announced their retirement as trustees.

Reg Pullen, past president of the Bandon Port Commission and Bandon cranberry grower, has served on the CCHS Board since the early 1980s. He has been Board president on several occasions and he contributed much work on the Building Committee and the Curatorial Committee. Reg led a very successful field trip on the Coos Bay Wagon Road several years ago and has given many historical talks to groups throughout the county. He has also been very active with the Bandon Historical Society serving as

their museum's curator. Reg is one of the most knowledgeable persons regarding South Coast history. Upon his retirement as an archeologist with the BLM later this year, we hope that Reg is successful in researching and publishing even more about local history.

Teri Whitty has been an enthusiastic and active Board member since June of 2002. Teri has also been community-minded with her involvement with the Coos Art Museum and Oregon Coast Music Association. A former elementary teacher and Pacific Power administrative assistant, her decade of service to the Society included planning innumerable museum social events, Building Committee work, exhibit planning, and fundraising. She always advocated working closely with other museums in the area and involving

all parts of the county in the affairs of the CCHS. The flair and fun of almost every museum social or fundraising event of the last ten years has had Teri's stamp on it. Teri and her husband **John Whitty** continue to be two of the key members of the Steering Committee which has done such a fantastic job with fundraising for the new Center.

The Pullen and Whitty families have also given generously towards the construction and exhibitory of the new Maritime Center. Reg and Teri are clear role models of what community service can mean to an organization. The CCHS is thankful for all they have done and will continue to do for the community.

We will have more news on recent additions to our board in the next edition of Waterways.

From the desk of the President

by Steve Greif



Exciting progress has been made on the Coos Historical & Maritime Center project since we last reported to you in November: we're almost ready to start work! Extraordinary community support, together with funds from our major granting organizations (**Ford Family Foundation, Collins Foundation, Coquille Tribe & Tribal Community Fund, Meyer Memorial Trust, and the Murdock Charitable Trust**), mean we can proceed without the financial burden and risks of expensive bridge loans. With your continued help, funding for exhibits and furnishings will also be in place by the time construction is finished in 2013.

Annie Donnelly (Executive Director), **Mike Crow** (Crow/Clay Architects), and **Mark Johnson** (Miller Hull Architects) have done a masterful job of completing the plans and paperwork associated with acquiring our building permits, which are now approved. Our Fundraising Co-Chairs **Bill Lansing** and **Steve Kridelbaugh**, and our Steering Committee chaired by **Jennifer Groth** along with committee members **Annie Donnelly, Caddy McKeown, Teri** and **John Whitty**, and myself have led a successful start to the Community Campaign that has raised \$400,000 since mid-August. Over 430 individuals, families, businesses, and organizations (almost all local and private) have contributed to the campaign thus far.

The CCHS Board will conduct a final review of all financial data and expects to put the project out to bid in late March. Assuming bids are within an acceptable range, construction will start by early summer. The Board has approved **Mike Crow** to be our "Owner's Representative". He will oversee production of the bid package (we're looking for a general contractor from western Oregon) and Mike will be the on-site eyes of the CCHS to monitor the construction process.

I must emphasize that while together we have overcome the enormous challenge of funding the building itself, we're still seeking additional matching grants that will double new donations for furniture, fixtures, equipment, exhibits, and opening operational expenses. We have space left for 50 more bronze, engraved survey markers (155 have been claimed!) so please contact the museum soon, or visit our website, to find out how your family or business can reserve this unique naming opportunity.

Breaking news -- Congratulations to **Bill Lansing** who was recently chosen as "Citizen of the Year" by the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce. Also, readers of *The Register-Guard* may have noticed our ad provided by **Liz Cawood** of the Eugene marketing firm CAWOOD. This very special ad was produced by my daughter Lindsey Sasser.

Numbers

- 4015 Museum visitors in 2011
- 2722 Volunteer man-hours in 2011
- 444 CCHS Members: new all time high
- 430 Donors to the CH&MC project
- 174 Research requests in 2011
- 6 Weeks to fulfill \$250K Murdock matching grant

In Other News

Previously published by *The World Newspaper*

As reported in *The World Newspaper*...

"The Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington will return to the Coos Bay docks May 3-12 for Tall Ships Days. In anticipation of the ship's arrival, the Boat Building Center is working to raise enough funds for up to 800 local children to go on sailing excursions on the tall ships. Because part of the expense is covered by a grant, it costs \$5.75 per child. For more information, or to schedule a presentation, call Tom Leahy at 541-217-4365. To learn more about the tall ships, visit their website at www.historicalseaport.org."

Calling All Handy Men and Women

By Hannah Cooney

The Coos Historical and Maritime

Museum is looking for someone with few fears, much ingenuity, and a soft spot for helping others. If this sounds like you and you are willing to work for free, please contact Hannah Cooney at the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum; phone number 541-756-6320, e-mail: coosinfo@frontier.com, or just drop by: Tuesday-Saturday from 10:00am-4:00pm. This volunteer opportunity requires at the very least the ability to clean gutters and climb up on a roof. There is no upper-limit to handyman skills, and any help you can give would be GREATLY APPRECIATED!

Our sincerest thanks, CHMM Staff



Come to our March 25th event! Check out page 3 for the full story...

Coos County Historical Society

1220 Sherman Ave., North Bend, OR 97459

www.cooshistory.org

Executive Director:	Annie Donnelly
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Legacy Voices: Oral Histories of Coos County

By Joan Greif

Coos County has a rich history – geographically, historically, culturally, and economically. Our rich history is the subject of a wide array of books by numerous local and regional authors. Adding to these printed resources, a new oral history program has been launched to record and preserve more stories of our area’s past.

Coos Bay Public Library has moved into the digital age with the Legacy Voices Oral History Program. Through grants from the Coos Bay Library Foundation and the Coos County Cultural Coalition, a digital recorder has been purchased and made available for one-week check out to county library patrons. North Bend Public Library has followed CBPL’s lead and has recently purchased a second digital recorder for check out with funding from North Bend Library Foundation.

The updated equipment and new program is one of several final projects of recently retired library director, **Carol Ventgen**. Ventgen has long taken an interest in area history as evidenced by the popular “Historically Speaking” evening lecture series which she coordinated at the library.

With the generous assistance of volunteer transcriber, Ventgen’s goal is to provide a new series of recorded oral histories on audio CD to county library patrons – be they local history buffs or area researchers. Written transcriptions will accompany the audio CDs thanks to the program’s volunteer.

Ventgen also initiated the conversion of an earlier oral history series from audio cassette to audio CD. That series, titled

“Coos County Oral History Project”, was a joint project of Southwestern Oregon Community College and the Coos County Historical Society spearheaded by **Sarah Recken** and was recorded between 2003 and 2006. Those interviews have been converted to digital audio files and transcribed as well. The converted audio CDs and transcripts are available for check out through the library system.

So, who can borrow the digital recorders and how does the new program work?

Any individual over 18 years of age with a Coos County library card in good standing may check out the digital recorders. The primary goal of the Legacy Voices program is to preserve local oral history. Interviewees willing to share their memories will be asked to sign a Legacy Voices consent form. An audio CD of the interview will be available to library users after the recording has been previewed by the interviewee and the written transcript has been checked for the correct spelling of proper names and place names. The digital recorders may also be used to record and save memories solely for individual use. Recorded interviews can be downloaded as audio files to personal computers.

Along with the digital recorder, the oral history kit includes written materials



Everyday memories of everyday people have historical importance. If we do not collect and preserve these stories, then one day they will disappear. (CH&MM photo)

- instructions for recorder set-up and an “Interviewer’s 1-minute guide to conducting an interview.”

With this new digital equipment and some thoughtful preparation, local history detectives can start capturing valuable memories and stories of the region. Don’t wait any longer!

For more information, contact Ellen Thompson at Coos Bay Public Library, 541-269-1101 or Joan Greif at North Bend Public Library, 541-756-0400.

Digital Recorders are available for checkout at Coos Bay Public Library and North Bend Public Library.

March 25th New Book Event

Join us at 3:00PM on Sunday, March 25th at Black Market Gourmet for presentation of a new Book, *Our Culture and History: The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians*. Over coffee, tea and dessert, Don Whereat, local historian, former CCHS Trustee, and former Cultural Resources Director for the Confederated tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw tribes; and Patty Whereat Phillips, an expert in local tribal language and culture, will discuss selected highlights; other contributors will also be available for discussion. \$6 members, \$7 nonmembers; space is limited, and advance registration encouraged!

Members, We Need Your Input!

By Hannah Cooney

October through December of 2012 the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum will be having an exhibit commemorating the 50th anniversary of the Columbus Day storm. Anyone with first-hand accounts of this devastating event is encouraged to please share any oral histories or photographs they may have. We thank you in advance for making this exhibit a success.

PS – Keep an eye out for future oral history related and other events regarding this exhibit!

The Interviewer's 1-Minute Guide to Conducting an Oral Interview

- Meet with narrator ahead of time; determine willingness to be interviewed.
- If the narrator is willing to have the interview made publicly available through the library, ask him/her to complete and sign the Release and Authorization Form.
- Ask about the narrator's background to prepare an interview outline.
- Reserve recording equipment at the library.
- Schedule an appointment with the narrator for the recording. The recording can be done in the library by prior arrangement.
- Check out the equipment. A formatted memory card is installed in the recorder. You may substitute your own memory card as long as it is compatible, but re-insert the library's card afterwards. See instructions.
- Record the interview. Up to five hours or so can be recorded at once.
- When recording is done, you can check it by pressing PLAY. The volume will be faint, not as the recording will actually play.
- After the interview, the recording can be downloaded to your computer directly from the recorder using the USB cord or from your own memory stick if you have used one.
- Return the recorder to the library along with all accessories and instructions. You may keep the Title Page, but if the narrator is willing to have the interview made publicly available, ask library staff to make a copy of the Title Page for you and leave the original with the library. Be sure to return the Release and Authorization Form to the library.

The Interviewer's 1-Minute Guide to Interviewing Techniques

- Bring the kit and all its contents to the recording interview.
- Before starting recording, make sure all cell phones or beeping watches are turned off, that there are no other sounds to hinder a clear recording, i.e. rustling papers, clothing with snaps against table, etc.
- Fill out the Title Page with the recorder on, asking narrator to verbally verify spelling of names or other words on the form.
- During recording, if the narrator mentions names that need spelling clarification, don't interrupt the recording but try to write them down and ask for spelling after the interview is over.
- Guide the interview while remaining flexible.
- Listen carefully – and pursue new topics as they come up.
- Use silence to let the narrator gather his or her thoughts.
- Ask for examples and anecdotes to illustrate parts of the narrator's history.

Check out these new books in our book store!

- Southwestern Oregon Community College: 50 Years*
by Bill Lansing
- Between Two Worlds: Chinese of Marshfield, Oregon*
by Jon Littlefield
- Our Culture and History: The Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians* - by Don Whereat
- Images of America: Reedsport* - by Jim Akre, Umpqua Discovery Center, Douglas County Museum
- Mad as the Mist and Snow: Exploring Oregon through Its Cemeteries*
by Johan Mathiesen

Roll Call

NEW MEMBERSHIPS

NEW INDIVIDUAL:

James Barnes
Heide Cummings
David Messerle
Jennifer Vaughn
Maxeen Wegner
Diana Wheeler

NEW FAMILY:

Brian and Nancy Allen
Mary Duvall
Dan Gebhardt
Michael and Jan Gillespie
Robert and Barbara Grant
Ronald and Mary Guenther
William and Susan Hutchinson
Phil and Lisa LaGesse
William Lucero
Bill and Hillary Mattecheck
George and Marcia Olivia
Joanne Verger

NEW BUSINESS:

Black Market Gourmet
Cougar Eye Care
Farrs True Value Hardware
Gold Coast Truck Repair
South Coast Development Council, Inc.

RENEWED MEMBERSHIPS

RENEWED INDIVIDUAL:

Evelyn Alford

Susan Anderson
Del Atkins
Harold Bailey
Susan Bjorkquist Holmes
Muriel Brainard
Thomas Brand
George Case
Pat Choat Pierce
Susan Christensen
Jerry Ciralo
Clara Jean Clark
Connie Davis
Rob Domenighini
Betty Eck
Myrle Ellingsen
John Engles
Vivian Glabau
Mary Granger
Mike Greif
Nadiene Greif
Karen Hammer
Katherine Hodgkin
Evan Johnson
Elinor Jorgensen
Michael Knips
M. J. Koreiva
Robert Kuenzli
Esther LaClair-Probst
Hugh Lee
Barb Leeling
Nick Lehbach
Karen Lind
Virginia Maine
Marie Martin
Bill McGuire
Estella Morgan
John Norton

Betty Ohman
Charlotte Palmateer
Joy Parker
Al Pettey
Barbara Porter
Blanche Sandberg
Robert Schwemmer
Dr. Richard Sebesta
Gary Sharp
Carl Siminow
Steven Skinner
Barbara Billington
Janet Stocks
Dean Talbo
Patrick Taylor
Frances Torbeck
Laura Wade
Dale and Janet Willis

RENEWED FAMILY:

Mark and Teri Albert
Sam and Sandi Archer
Ken and Deanne Bauer
Deryl and Chris Beebe
Rudy and Joyce Bjorkquist
Patricia Borchert
Warren and Janet Brainard
Evelyn Breuer
David and Shirley Bridgham
Terry and Lori Capps
Larry and Pat Close
Bob and Susan Coraor
Karen David
Harry and Victoria Davis
Ken and Cathy Denton
Glenn and Kathi Dugger
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Dennis and Judy Goude
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Chuck and Mary Howard
Adrienne Jernigan
Oscar and Pat Johnson
Rudy and Mary Jo Juul
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John and Bette Kelley
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Herb and Betsy Kinney
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Dan and Lisa Mast
Phil and Lucille Matson
Don and Sharon McMichael
John and Rosemary Merchant
Ron and Kathy Metzger
Thomas and Susan Nowlin
Mike O'Dwyer and Anne Guerin
Dan and Cheryl Peckham
Donald and Joanna Poage

Ken and Betty Pratt
George and Sharon Reese
Don and Carol Richwine
Gordon and Wilma Ross
Robert Sasanoff and Sarah Recken
Brent and Lindsey Sasser
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John and Judith Uno
Roger and Maren Vernon
Harry and Anna Why
Jerry and Fran Worthen
Tom and Diana Younker
Lionel and Hilda Youst
Kurt and Dianne Zarder

RENEWED BUSINESS:

Best Western Holiday Motel
Cedar Electric and Construction, Inc.
J. W. White Painting
Lee Valley Dairy
Mowry Smith III
Ted and Carolyn Terry (DMD)
Whitty, McDaniel, Bodkin and Combs, LLP

The Soviet Invasion *By Jeanne Woods*

Coos Bay is an international port, but prior to 1973 had not received a Soviet ship in decades. The early 1970s was the era of détente: Nixon made his groundbreaking trip to China, and the first Salt Treaty had been signed by the United States and Soviet Union. Here in Coos Bay, we experienced our own version of thawing international relations when a damaged Soviet fishing trawler arrived in the bay on July 14, 1973.

The trawler *Nakhodka* had collided with a sister ship, the *Sezd Vlksm* a day earlier, approximately 15 miles northwest of the Umpqua River while they were both fishing on the ocean waters. The *Sezd Vlksm* sank quickly; the *Nakhodka* was able to rescue all persons, but needed to come into Coos Bay for hull repair.

Out on the ocean there was a big, sharp swell, and the Coast Guard 44-foot motor lifeboat was barely keeping up with the fishing trawler as they attempted to get the Coos Bay bar pilot on board. As the bar pilot Captain Gene Woods recalls:

“The fishing trawler lowered the pilot ladder, a rickety looking mass of manila ropes and wooden rungs. As the lifeboat came up on the swell, I stood on the bow, arms in the air, reaching for a hold on this rope ladder. The lifeboat held up against the *Nakhodka* for less than a second before falling away into the trough with the sea spray crashing all around us. In a matter of three seconds we were maybe 75 feet away from the trawler, readying for a second approach.

I was in an awkward position, too high to reach over and grab the ladder, and couldn't get my fingers underneath the ropes. With the waves pounding against the vessel making footing unsteady, it's natural for people to want to help you board, but when the young Coast Guard kid tried to grab me, I yelled at him to stay back, concentrating on timing and distance, and I got my hands on that rope the second time and just hung on. By the time I looked around, the Coast Guard boat had already drifted behind me 100 feet. I dangled there on the side of the *Nakhodka* while it was moving up and down, suspended about 15 feet above the ocean, trying to get up to the next rung of the ladder. Finally one of the fishing crew was able to get a hand down to me.”

While hundreds of people lined the dock to watch the ship arrive, not everyone was greeting the ship with enthusiasm. Some people with picket signs were protesting the Russians' fishing in our coastal waters, because they were using ships that were 4-5 times the size of American regular fishing vessels as well as a fine mesh net to sweep up all the fish. Out-of-towners drove in to Coos Bay just to gawk at the Russians. Meanwhile, the Russian crew lined the sides of the boat, gaping back down at the crowd.

With repairs to the ship taking longer than originally planned, the Bay Area community got together to help provide some respite for these sailors who had not been off the vessel since their fishing trip started in May. With the help of Senator Mark Hatfield, they got approval from U.S. Customs,



the State Department, Immigration, and the Soviet ambassador to allow the group of 69 seamen (this included a handful of women sailors) to tour the Bay Area.

Sponsored by Tioga Recording Studio and Dr Roger Flanagan, the sailors were driven to the west fork of the Millicoma River for a picnic, including catching crawdads and playing soccer. Flanagan was the grandson of Patrick Flanagan, an early pioneer of Coos Bay. According to *The Oregonian*, there was a brief moment of panic when two of the sailors disappeared. They were eventually found, “skinny dipping in the river.”

“Rock and Roll” music proved to be the universal language one evening when a local band got together to play on the dock for the crewmen and women on board their ship. Joe McCarthy was in charge of the band, and he thought “maybe we could turn these communists on to some western music and win them over with friendship.” So in a fitting end to their U.S. visit, guitarist Bobby Lindstrom opened the concert that night on the dock with the Beatles' tune “Back in the U.S.S.R.”

Donations

through February 1, 2012

NEW BUILDING:

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Jon and Patricia Barton
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Barbara McKeown,
Frank and Mavis Road
Richard and Irene Sun
In memory of Jack
Schneiderman
The Rivermen
In memory of Donald
Gray

New Acquisitions

through February 1, 2012

Brown, Michael and Sandi - 1 check, 1 program, 1 ticket
Cayot, Jan and Linda - 1 postcard
Cullen, Ken - 3 hardhats, 2 booklet, 1 biltmore stick, 1 yarstick, 1 shoe brush, 3 signs, 1 emergency reflector set
Cummings, Grant and Heide - Native American artifacts
Duvall, Mary - 2 manuscripts, 1 blanket, 1 film projector, 15 16mm Keizer family films
Greif, Steve and Joan - 1 postcard, 1 newspaper, 2 CDs, 1 Book, 1 Stereoscope, 1 Stereoscope case, 1 Booklet
Isenhardt, John and Laura - 4 Native American artifacts
Juil, Rudy and Mary Jo - 1 Serving Tray, 10 Scandinavian Phonographs, 33 books
Knapp, Ron - 1 helmet, 1 photograph, 2 magazines, 2 newspapers
Vandervelden, Bob - 85 Abstracts of title

Waterways

Coos County Historical Society
1220 Sherman Ave. – North Bend, OR 97459
www.cooshistory.org



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Phone/Fax 541-756-6320
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541-269-0355*

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

GOING ON NOW: Check out the most recent exhibit at CHMM, Celebrating Oregon Archaeology!

- Mar. 8 North Bend Art Walk in March, (541) 756-1989
- Mar. 8 Meet the Author – Kim Cooper Findling, North Bend Public Library at 7:00PM, (541) 756-0400
- Mar. 9-11 South Coast Clambake Jazz Festival, (541)269-0215 or (541)756-8800
- Mar. 9 Foreign Film Friday, Coos Bay Public Library, (541) 269-1101
- Mar. 10 “Birds of the Oregon Coast” OIMB Boathouse at 9:00AM, (541)260-7770
- Mar. 21 **Board Meeting**, CHMM at 4:00PM, (541)756-6320
- Mar. 25 CHMM hosts Coos tribal members, Black Market Gourmet at 3:00PM, \$7/\$6 members, (541)756-6320
- Apr. 7 “Culture Meets Geology” OIMB Boathouse/Lighthouse Pt. field trip at 9:00AM (541)260-7770
- Apr. 18 **Board Meeting**, CHMM at 4:00PM, (541)756-6320
- May 12 Coastal Stewardship, SEA Seminar, OIMB Boathouse at 8:30AM, (541) 260-7770
- May 16 **Board Meeting**, CHMM at 4:00PM, (541)756-6320