

By Tom Hines & Richard Whitwer

It started as a chance encounter with a couple of stored buoy lanterns in the mechanical room. Museum volunteer Richard Whitwer happened across several pieces of Coast Guard history while he was cleaning and organizing the mechanical room last March. Intrigued by the nondescript lanterns and lenses sitting on a shelf, Richard began looking into the story of these wayward pieces. His search led him to another museum volunteer, Tom Hines, who just happens to be the Officer in Charge of the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team in Coos Bay. At first sight of the pictures sent by Richard, Tom knew instantly that these were 200 mm buoy lanterns from the 1920s-1960s. What Richard was about to find out was that Tom had worked with the Coast Guard Historian’s Office the prior winter to record his unit’s history, and this type of equipment was prominently described in that research. Excited by their mutual interest in the history of the Coast Guard, Richard and Tom set out to display and highlight those lanterns and the history they represent.

While there were several parts and pieces to a few different lanterns stored together in the mechanical room, there were two complete lanterns, one with U.S.C.G. and the other with U.S.L.H.S. markings. The simple raised letter markings on the cast metal bases tell a very deep and fascinating story about the Coast Guard and their involvement in Coos Bay. Prior to the merging of the U.S. Light House Service (U.S.L.H.S.) into the U.S. Coast Guard (U.S.C.G.) in 1939, all of the federal aids to navigation markers in the U.S. were maintained and managed by the U.S.L.H.S. This included Coos Bay.

First lit in 1866, the Cape Arago Light House introduced Coos Bay to the Light House Service. With the construction of three different structures between 1866 and 1934, Cape Arago Light remained an important navigational aid until it was decommissioned in 2006. As commercial and local boating traffic volume increased in the area following the establishment of Cape Arago Light, the need for more aids to navigation arose. By the 1890s buoys and small shore based lights were established throughout Coos Bay to safely guide mariners to the numerous wharves and ports that dotted the coastlines of Empire, North Bend and Marshfield. The responsibilities for these lights initially fell to the keepers of Cape Arago Light. However, as the number of lights increased, the Coast Guard stepped in to manage them. This transition is reflected in the markings on the lanterns found in the mechanical room. The display in the entryway to the main gallery with the two lanterns found by Richard Witwer on the bottom.
Greetings to CCHS members! We’re approaching the end of another year for the museum. It’s been an eventful year with new features such as the First Tuesday lecture series, Second Sunday free admission, and our first annual fundraiser (author Amy Stewart). We also welcomed new board members and staff who add their talents to the organization. Our traditional activities, including Steve Greif’s Coos County History class, our award-winning education program, and the July tour, continued their successful runs.

As we begin 2018, we hope to continue with all of our past events, and maybe add a few. Staff and board members are already searching for a featured speaker for next year’s fundraiser. Anne Guerin and I will plan another tour for July. We’re looking at North County areas for the coming year. The Exhibits Committee is planning updates to our exhibit hall. Most importantly, in June of the coming year, you will be blessed with a new CCHS President!

In addition to the holiday season, the end of the year is also the time when many of you make decisions regarding your giving. The museum can always use additional funds. Several years ago the board established an endowment to help provide the museum with long-term financial resources. If you’re interested in donating to the endowment, talk to Director Susan Tissot. Another way of supporting your museum is patronizing the museum store for your Christmas shopping. Valerie Caskey has stocked the shelves with an array of new merchandise. You will also get to see the museum decorated for Christmas by our talented staff and volunteers.

In conclusion, I’d like to wish all of you a joyful holiday season and a productive and prosperous New Year!

RegistrationOpensforLocalHistoryClass

CHM board member Steve Greif will again teach a local history class this winter term with a new curriculum twist. “South Coast Biography: Local History From Lives of the Past” will be held at the Coos History Museum on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 to 7:30 from January 10th through March 21st. Each session will feature slide-show biographies of three or more local people from our past who illustrate a theme of South Coast history. The fee for the Southwestern Oregon Community College community education class is $60. As this is a non-credit course, there is no textbook, assignments, or tests.

Interested participants must register for the class through the community college. Visit the Student First Stop Center in Dellwood Hall across from the SWOCC book store between the hours of 7:00am to 6:00pm, Monday through Thursday, between November 20th and December 20th or January 2nd thru January 10th. Space is limited for the class held in the Sprague Gallery of the museum. You can also register online at www.socc.edu by following the directions on the Community Education link. The course number is HST 0215-65.

For questions or further information you can contact Steve Greif by calling the museum at 541.756.6320.
‘Tis the season of frosty mornings and beautiful vistas on the bay. As I celebrate my one year anniversary as your Executive Director, I continue to marvel at all the amazing wildlife and marine industry that I observe through the windows at the museum. I admit it; I now have a love affair with tugboats. They remind me of the childhood book, *The Little Engine That Could* by Watty Piper. Each time I see them chugging along on the bay, I hear in my head, “I think I can, I think I can.” I realize the book was about a train, but the tugs demonstrate that same optimism and strong work ethic that resonates with me.

The museum’s building/location on the bayfront came to fruition because of the diligence and persistence of a dedicated group of citizens who for 16 years never gave up. (“I think I can, I think I can, I KNOW I can.”) I am still in awe of this incredible accomplishment that created a new home for the Coos History Museum. We are a 501 (c) 3 nonprofit organization. The museum belongs to our greater community, and our staff is working hard to provide a broad range of public education programs. In 2018 we will feature the year of the veteran at the museum. We are planning a program series that includes the Smithsonian’s *Patriot Nations* exhibit which opens March 1 and interprets why Native Americans serve in the United States military. Stay tuned. The year will not disappoint.

The museum does not receive any direct government funding. It is your generosity that keeps the lights on and allows us to reach over 2,000 students and more than 10,000 adults from 50 states and 25 countries. Giving is easy. There is a donation coupon in this newsletter and donation and membership forms at our front desk. For those who prefer to give online, we have a PayPal button on our website.

I thank you in advance for your continued support.

On behalf of our board, staff, and volunteers, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

Yes, ‘tis the season. I hope you will include the museum in your year-end giving plans and join/renew your membership. We need your support to operate in 2018. The museum does not receive any direct government funding. It is your generosity that keeps the lights on and allows us to reach over 2,000 students and more than 10,000 adults from 50 states and 25 countries. Giving is easy. There is a donation coupon in this newsletter and donation and membership forms at our front desk. For those who prefer to give online, we have a PayPal button on our website.

I thank you in advance for your continued support.

On behalf of our board, staff, and volunteers, we wish you a safe and happy holiday season.

The paper ornaments on the Angel Tree list items for holiday shopping options that benefit museum operations.

**Office Supplies:** business card holders, colored paper, post-it stickers, smart board, light-duty desktop folder, envelopes, supply organizer caddy, highlighters, iPad stands, labels, price labels, boxes, paper bags.

**Public Programs/Special Events:** tablecloths, black resin chairs, plastic storage containers.

**Museum-Curation Supplies:** gloves, electronic caliper, bond paper, photo numbers, number blocks, acid-free tissue, marking pens, shanks, books, display risers, artifact tray, tape.
of aids increased, so too did the amount of time and work associated with the upkeep of these lanterns. To meet the needs of these lanterns, the Light House Service began hiring local civilians to maintain the lights. Coming to Coos Bay in 1911 to fill this need, Nils Peter Adamson, began a legacy that continues today.

A Swedish immigrant with 15 years of service with the U.S. Life Saving Service and Light House Service by the time he and his wife landed at the Marshfield town docks in 1911, Nils Adamson maintained the lights of the Coos Bay area until his son, Chester Nils Adamson, took over in 1933. The lanterns of those days were kerosene burning and required daily visits to clean soot from the lenses and to ensure there was enough fuel and wick for the next several days. In 1933, Nils completed 37 years of total employment between the US Life Saving Service and US Lighthouse Service. Upon his retirement, he was responsible for 32 lights on Coos Bay.

Nils’ son Chester (known locally as Chet) continued the family business as the keeper of the Coos Bay lights and oversaw much of the transition from kerosene to battery powered lanterns. Chet remained the sole keeper of the lights until his retirement in 1976 when the Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Coos Bay was stood up. The men and women of ANT Coos Bay continue to maintain the lights and buoys in the Coos Bay area today along with the navigational aids from Depoe Bay down to Chetco River, including Yaquina Head and Cape Blanco Light Houses.

As for the lanterns found in the mechanical room, they most likely came from old stock that was in the possession of Chet Adamson upon his retirement. Several old lanterns and lenses from the Adamson family have made it into the local community, and it appears these pieces were generously donated to the museum and are currently displayed in one of the entry foyer display cases. While the current display highlights the rich history of the aids to navigation in Coos Bay, Richard and Tom are working on an upcoming display to highlight the search and rescue aspects of the Life Saving Service and Coast Guard in Coos Bay. So stand by…
Maintaining the Fresnel Lens

By Tom Hines

Using the same technique and cleaning supplies (cloth rags and a vinegar water solution) as the lightkeepers from the past, members of the U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Coos Bay, Oregon, cleaned the 4th Order Fresnel Lens from the Cape Arago Lighthouse at the Coos History Museum. Taking great care not to damage the century old glass prisms, the ANT crew carefully removed dust and dirt from each glass surface. In no time, the prisms began to sparkle, and the small lamp inside the lens began to shine brightly throughout the main gallery of the museum. While the team took their time to clean each glass surface, they only lightly wiped the brass surfaces just to clear off any loose dirt or dust. They did not shine the brass. Shining brass, while making it bright and beautiful, slowly breaks down the material and can eventually weaken the structural integrity of the lens. By letting the brass naturally gain a patina, the team is helping to preserve the lens for the enjoyment of future visitors to the museum. The cleaning marks the beginning of a partnership between the Aids to Navigation Team and the museum to periodically clean the lens.

The U.S. Coast Guard Aids to Navigation Team Coos Bay oversees the inshore maritime navigational aids from Depoe Bay down to Brookings. They manage 178 “aids” that include Yaquina Head and Cape Blanco Lighthouses along with numerous ranges, lights and buoys in the rivers and bays along the Southern Oregon Coast. With a crew of 12, the ANT members stay busy keeping the lights and buoys functioning properly to ensure that the marine channels of the Southern Oregon Coast are well marked.

USCG Aids to Navigation Team Coos Bay members cleaning the 4th Order Cape Arago Fresnel Lens. The team included 3rd class Boatswain’s Mate Zach Porciuncula, Seaman Caleb Economides, and Seaman Tyler Schuchhardt.

Bus Tours Visit the Coos History Museum

By Steve Greif

There is a favorable trend of large out-of-county bus tour groups pre-arranging to start their Oregon Coast adventure by visiting the Coos History Museum. In most cases, education coordinator Amy Pollicino or volunteer Steve Greif have started the tours with a PowerPoint orientation in the Sprague Gallery before moving into the exhibit hall. Visitors learn about the culture, economics, and geography of the South Coast before continuing their explorations of Coos County.

The economic benefits of these bus tours have been very positive. Not only does the museum gain admission and donation revenue, the patrons generally love to purchase items in the museum store. During a recent visit this fall from a British Columbia tour company (which had returned from an initial trip in 2016), guests spent over $500 in our store.

The tours have also generated business for the community at large. Tour groups often spend the night at a local hotel, eat in local restaurants, and visit other tourist-friendly venues like Shoreacres. Prior to our new museum opening in 2015, large group museum tours were rare.

The new CHM has contributed to the trend of tour bus companies coming to the South Coast and staying an extra day to explore the region. The CHM is proud to be taking an active role in promoting the tourism industry – an increasingly vital part of our local economy.

Interested in historical images?

Most images from the museum’s collection are available for purchase.

Check our website, www.cooshistory.org, for information regarding user and licensing fees.
Calendar of Events

We are working hard at bringing new and relevant public programming to the community. The following is a partial list of upcoming events. Check the museum’s website for a full calendar of events, www.cooshistory.org.

JANUARY

Exhibits: Coos County in Main Gallery, Coos Agriculture on Mezzanine

2 – No First Tuesday Talk

4, 11, 18, 25 – Toddler Yoga: Every Thurs. 10:30-11:30a.m. $7 fee adults; with current CHM Family Membership Level or higher, Free. Photo by Becky Galindo, instructor


14 – Second Sunday Family Fun Day: Museum admission FREE all day, 10a.m.-5p.m., plus hands-on activities for kids and the young at heart from 1-3p.m. Activities: TBA. Sponsored by Coquille Animal Hospital.

20 – Cedar and Sweet Grass Weaving Class: 10a.m.-4p.m. Learn traditional weaving techniques and materials. Western red cedar and coast sweet grass sedge will be used to make a set of four each of placemats and coasters. Class taught by Stephanie Craig. Cost: $90, preregistration required.

28 – Knot Club: 2-4p.m. Skill-sharing club all about how to tie different kinds of knots. Members enjoy working on various projects throughout the year. All levels welcome.

FEBRUARY

Exhibits: Coos County in Main Gallery, Coos Agriculture on Mezzanine

1, 8, 15, 22 – Toddler Yoga: Every Thursday 10:30-11:30a.m. $7 fee adults; with current CHM Family Membership Level or higher, Free.

6 – First Tuesday Talks: Museum open extended hours 6-8:30p.m. with galleries and store open. Lecture begins at 6:30p.m. $7 adults, free for museum members.

7, 14, 21, 28 – Local History Class: 6:30-7:30p.m. “South Coast Biography: Local History From Lives of the Past.” Wednesdays, Jan. 10-Mar. 21. Pre-registration required, class fee $60.

11 – Second Sunday Family Fun Day: Museum admission FREE all day, 10a.m.-5p.m., plus hands-on activities for kids and the young at heart from 1p.m.-3p.m. Activities: TBA. Sponsored by Coquille Animal Hospital.

24 – Tule Mat Weaving Class, 10a.m.-4p.m. Learn how to traditionally process the materials, and go home with a finished mat. Class taught by Stephanie Craig. Cost: $80, preregistration required.

25 – Knot Club: 2-4p.m. Skill-sharing club all about how to tie different kinds of knots. Members enjoy working on various projects throughout the year. All levels welcome.

MARCH

Exhibits: Coos County in Main Gallery, Patriot Nations on Mezzanine

1 – Opening Reception, 5p.m. Smithsonian Institution National Museum of the American Indian exhibit, Patriot Nations: Native Americans in Our Nation’s Armed Forces.

1, 8, 15, 22, 29 – Toddler Yoga: Every Thursday 10:30-11:30a.m. $7 fee adults; with current CHM Family Membership Level or higher, Free.

6 – First Tuesday Talks: Museum open extended hours 6-8:30p.m. with galleries and store open. Lecture begins at 6:30 p.m. $7 adults, free for museum members. Speaker: Kay Demlow, Designer, Dressmaker and Fashion Historian, From the Skin Out: What They Were Wearing Underneath

7, 14, 21 – Local History Class: 6:30-7:30p.m. “South Coast Biography: Local History From Lives of the Past.” Wednesdays, Jan. 10-Mar. 21. Pre-registration required, class fee $60.

11 – Second Sunday Family Fun Day: Museum admission FREE all day, 10a.m.-5p.m., plus hands-on activities for kids and the young at heart from 1p.m.-3p.m. Activities: TBA. Sponsored by Coquille Animal Hospital.

12 – Womens History Month Luncheon, 11a.m.-1p.m. In celebration of national Women’s History Month, this year’s luncheon event includes a presentation by costume historian, LaRee Johnson, Author of “Ladies Vintage Accessories.” Due to limited seating, advanced ticket purchase is required. Tickets are $45 per person general public; CHM members $40. Tickets are non-refundable but transferable.

17 – Veteran’s Reconciliation Ceremony, 11a.m., Sprague Gallery. Light refreshments provided. Sponsored by Bay Area Hospital Foundation.
In late September, volunteers Steve Greif and Larry Seguine installed 40 new bronze survey markers onto the grounds in front of the Coos History Museum in between the north bioswales. These survey markers are from museum donors who contributed for the special project with a $500+ gift since the spring of 2015. The new markers are located near the original 245 markers that were set in place just prior to the museum’s opening. Thank you to local contractors Scott Partney and Kim Edd who provided expertise and equipment at no cost to move the project along and to Berntsen International, Inc. of Madison, Wisconsin, which did an excellent job of manufacturing and delivering the markers. Volunteers at the front desk of the museum can guide any donor to the location of their markers. Next time you visit the museum, stop to view the names of all the wonderful donors who helped the museum’s capital campaign become a reality.

Volunteers from the Coos Bay Star of Hope program came to the Coos History Museum in early October 2017 for a few hours to help board member Steve Greif weed the museum’s landscaped areas along Front Street. Pictured above (L-R) are Justin Lisonbee, Raheem Lewis, Jamal Jackson, Danny Marah, supervisor Sharon Thom, Jordan Siegrist and Norman Simmons. Not pictured: Jonathan O’Neil. They plan to return from time to time to help us maintain our grounds. The Public Works Department of the City of Coos Bay also filled in four potholes along Front Street at the museum’s request. A big thank you from the CHM to the Star of Hope and the City of Coos Bay!
**Membership Roll Call**

**September 1 - November 30, 2017**

**New Membership/Individual**
- Combs, Grant
- Heap, Katie
- Kinnaird, Marshall
- Moffitt, Christine
- Moore, W.E.

**New Membership/Family**
- Benward, Curt
- Stevens, Andrea & Blanc, John
- Day, Cara
- Messner, Ben & Tia
- Mrkvicka, William & Rosengarden, Maidie
- Denton, Laurie & Bolton, Sue
- Sweet, John

**New Membership/Friend**
- Oelke, David & Carol

**Individual Renewal**
- Mahaffy, Robert
- Miles, Patsy
- Powrie, L. Sue
- Quilhaugh, Gene
- Stocks, Janet

**Family Renewal**
- Messerle, Donald
- Petley, Al & Marion
- Seip, Suzanne & Ron
- Walworth, Clark & Catherine
- Wirth, Bart & Sue

**Friend/Upgraded**
- Morrissey, Mike
- Serpa, Carol
- Sheridan, Virginia
- Stebbins, Mike & Mary Lou

**DONATIONS**

**September - November 2017**

- Amazon Smile Foundation
- Bereson, Jo
- Borgard, Douglas
- Burkholder, Rich
- Collins, Ann
- Cousens, Grant & Rae Len
- Cribb, Barbara
- Cross, Pat
- Farr, Linda & Jay
- Fischer, Suzanne
- Flaxel, John & Joy
- Greif, Michael T.
- Greif, Steve & Joan
- Groth, Stephan & Jennifer
- Gulseth, Greg & Randi
- Hooper, Steve & Jan
- Keller, Diana
- Lansing, Bill
- Lee Valley Dairy
- Mahaffy, Robt
- Mallory, Patricia
- Mast, Dan & Lisa
- McClaren, Greg & Elizabeth
- Nieraeth, Kristy
- Paul, Mary Susan
- Pruhsmeyer, Karen
- Sandberg, Blanche
- Smith, Cornelia
- Stephens, Chris
- Strine, Linda
- Sweet, John
- Tanac, Wesley & Dianne
- Topits, Marilyn
- Uno, John
- Umpqua Sheet Metal
- Valero, Marie
- Wagner, Dick & Judy
- Whitty, John & Teri

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**Bioswale Clean-up**

The CHM had a productive landscaping work party on December 1st. **Alexa Carleton** (Coos Watershed Assoc. Education Program Leader), **Kaendra Emmons** (Coos Watershed Assoc. AmeriCorps member), science teacher **Jessie Antonellis-John**, and CHM board member **Steve Greif** participated with students from the **Destinations Academy** of the Coos Bay School District to rid the bioswale on the eastern side of the CHM parking lot of invasive species. The bioswale was designed with plants which help clean storm-water runoff. Scotch broom and other species that are non-native were removed. The students earned hours toward their science credit with this project. Pictured here, with the crew leaders mentioned above, are Destination Academy students **Kody Cochell, Jessy Garcia, Nick Baker, Tyler Warner, Gavin Burch, Breahna Head**, and **James McGraw**.

“Thank you” from the CHM!

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**We are always looking for volunteers to help out at the museum.**

Contact Valerie Caskey at volunteercoordinator@cooshistory.org or call 541-756-6320 for more information.

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The museum hosted a Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Mixer on October 10, with **Steve Greif** giving a gallery tour to **Susan Tissot** and her fellow Rotarians.
**We’ve Landed a Treasurer**

The Coos Historical Society board is delighted to announce that the treasurer position is again filled. Norm Herning has returned to the fold as he was the treasurer for the museum quite a few years ago, about the time that the original donation came in for the new building and through part of the initial fundraising campaign. At age 74, Norm has been retired from his CPA practice for approximately eight years. He and John Briggs were partners in Herning & Briggs for around 35 years. A longtime resident of the area, Norm is an active volunteer, serving on the board of the Waterfall Clinic, where he also was the treasurer; plus, he has been treasurer for Hospice. Norm and Linda, his wife, are lifetime members of CHM.

**Is it time to purchase or renew your annual membership? Make a donation?**

- __Student ($15)__
- __Individual ($35)__
- __Family ($50)__
- __Friend ($100)__
- __Benefactor ($250)__
- __Historian ($500)__
- __Curator ($1,000)__
- __Business membership ($100 or above)__
- __Donation $__________

Your annual membership becomes active from date of purchase.

**It Was a Bake-off at the Museum**

Museum volunteers gathered this fall for a festive cookie baking contest, nibbling their way through many plates of tasty cookies, to select the winner: Ann Collins with her Lemon Ricotta Cookies with Lemon Glaze. Ann has a long and proud association with the museum, as a board member (now retired), volunteer, and underwriter of the quarterly newsletter. We hope you have the same success with Ann’s recipe, as follows:

**Lemon Ricotta Cookies with Lemon Glaze**

**Dough**

- 2 ½ C flour
- 1 tsp. baking powder
- 1 tsp. salt
- 1 stick unsalted butter, softened
- 2 C sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 - 15 oz. container whole milk ricotta
- 3 T. lemon juice
- zest of 1 lemon

Mix dry ingredients. Combine butter and sugar, then add eggs, ricotta cheese, juice and zest. Stir in dry mix. Place about 2 T. dough on parchment lined cookie sheets, then bake 15 minutes in preheated oven (375 F.) Let rest on sheets 20 minutes, then glaze with the following:

**Glaze**

- 1 ½ C. powdered sugar
- 3 T. lemon juice
- zest of 1 lemon

Let glaze harden about 2 hours before serving.

One of the many benefits of getting a Friend membership or higher is being able to gain free access to the 973 museums that are a part of that association. More information is available at the museum or on the website: www.cooshistory.org
Our SE Asia Museum Tour Group returned safely after a wonderful 2 week trip to cultural and heritage sites in Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The trip was co-lead by CHM Executive Director, Susan Tissot and Group Journeys Travel Planner, Carol Pinnell. While on the October 20-Nov 3, 2017 trip they visited museums, cultural and UNESCO World Heritage sites, markets, art galleries and textile studios. Pictured here is the group with their guide in front of the UNESCO World Heritage Site and National Park, Angkor Wat, Siem Reap Cambodia. Want to see more of their adventures? Check it out on the museum’s Facebook page or go to our website, www.cooshistory.org.