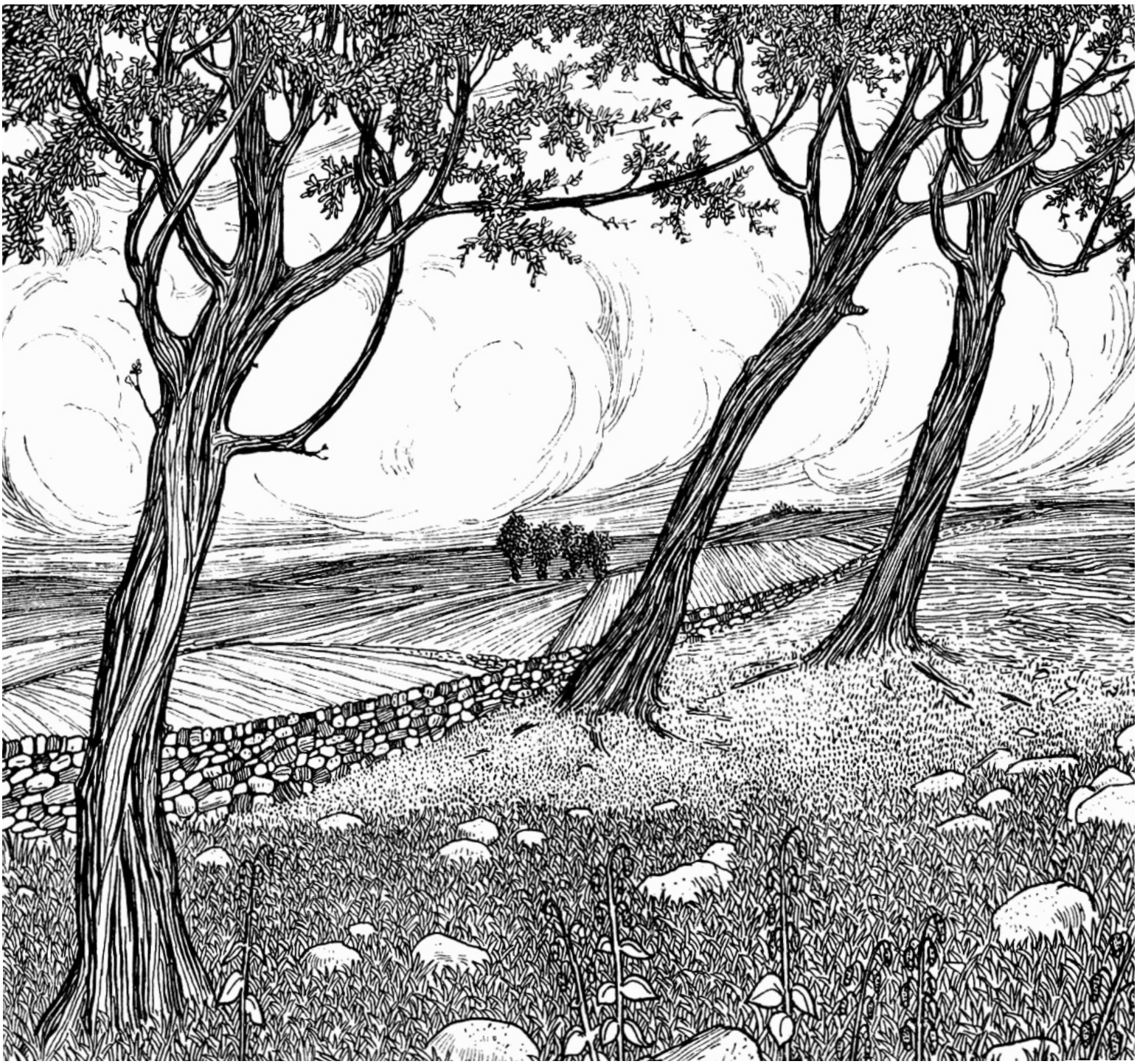
The Artifact

Lane County Historical Museum

Spring 2017 No. 223

Exhibits, events, and historical goings-on



When and Where
Tuesday – Saturday 10 AM – 4 PM
740 West 13th Avenue, Eugene, OR

How much
Adults $5
Seniors (60+). $3
Youth (15–17) $1.00
Kids (14 & under). . . . . FREE
Members. . . . . FREE

See website for free entry dates

Call us
Office 541.682.4242

Our web presence
- lchm.org
- facebook.com/lchm.org/
- flickr.com/photos/lanehistory/
- youtube.com/c/LchmOrg

Become a Member
Sign up! The benefits include:
- Free admission to museum
- Invitations to members-only events
- Discount at the museum store
- Discount on research requests
- Subscription to *The Artifact* and *Lane County Historian*

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Shop at the Museum Store
Come by our store for new books, cards, post cards, posters, photos, old fashioned toys, and much more!

The Artifact is produced by:
- Editor & Design: graphics@lchm.org
- LCHM staff members
- Guest contributors

LOOKING FORWARD

APRIL

7 **McKenzie Memories**
Venue 252 at 252 Lawrence St, 7:00 PM (Doors at 6:00 PM)
Join the McKenzie River Trust for our 6th annual celebration of the history of the McKenzie with storytelling, rare historic photos, artifacts, and more.

7–9 **Radio Redux: War of the Worlds**
Hult Center, Fri 6:45 PM, Sat 6:45 PM, Sun 1:15 PM

10 **Ranger Recollections** by Bob Hart
Cascade Manor, 65 W 30th Ave, 7:00 PM, FREE

18 **What Was Wendling: Recreating a Lost Town**
Steelhead Brewing Company, 199 E 5th Ave, 7:00 PM
A talk by Faith Kreskey at the Society of American Foresters Emerald Chapter Meeting, FREE

21 **Time Traveling Tots** Free Pre-K – Kindergarten class
At LCHM, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM, FREE, Topic: "Quilting"

25-30 **Pioneer Quilters' Quilt Show 2017** Annual Museum Fundraiser
Open 10AM - 4PM, Tuesday - Sunday, $7 Day Pass, $15 Week Pass
- Over 100 quilts made by Pioneer Quilters and others
- Dayl-long hand quilting of a quilt in the frame
- Daily speakers and Twice-daily demonstrations

MAY

19 **Time Traveling Tots** Free Pre-k – Kindergarten class
At LCHM, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM, FREE, Rotating topic

20 **Speaker Event "Wendling: The Early Years"** by Jay Swofford
At LCHM, 2:00 PM, FREE (More details on page 9, "Museum News")

27–29 **Masonic Cemetery Hope Abbey Mausoleum Open House**
1:00 PM – 4:00 PM, Taps played each day at noon

29 **Pioneer Cemetery Memorial Day Service at Civil War Veteran's Plot**
11:00 AM, "Black Powder Salute" and patriotic songs

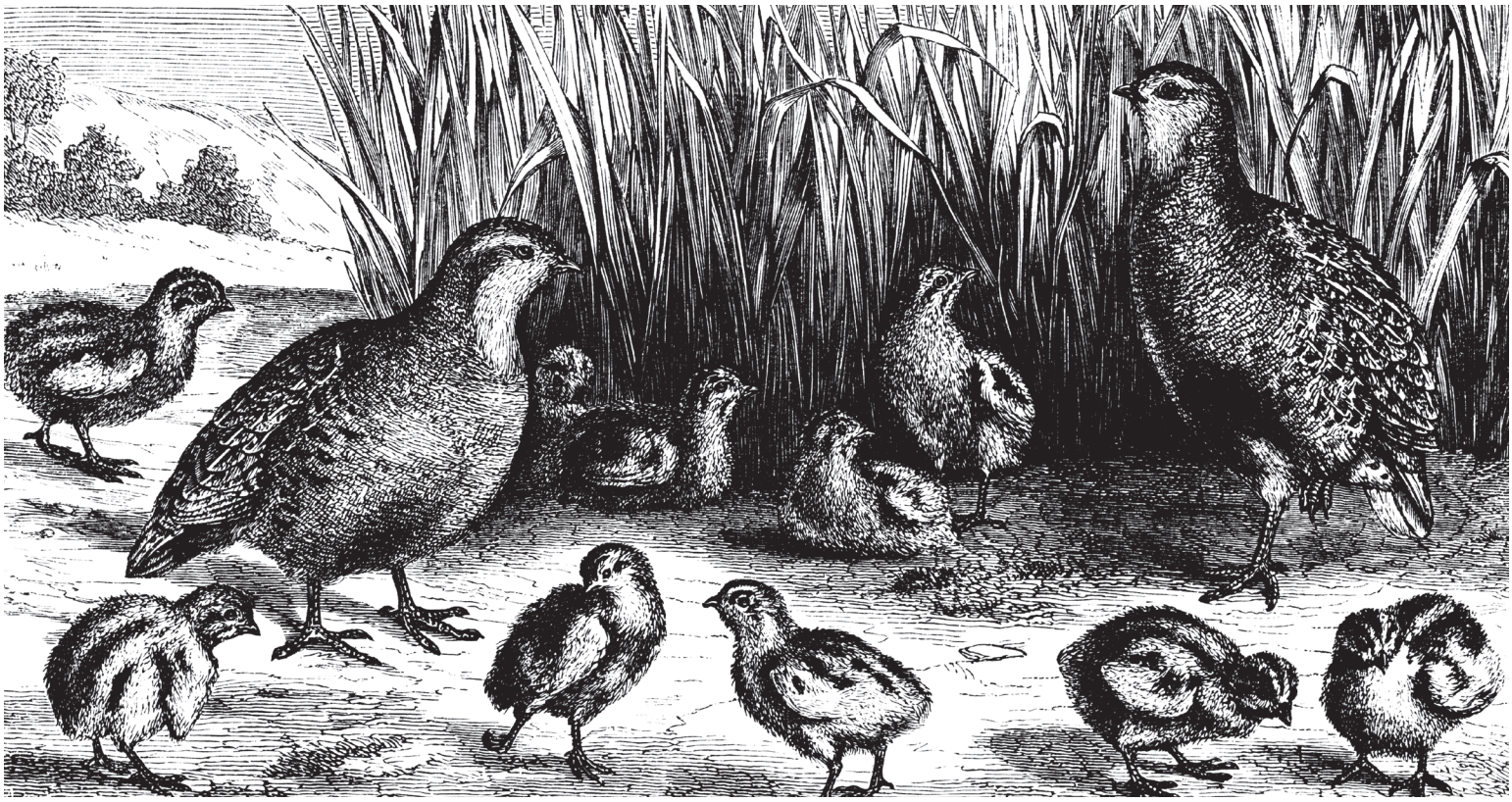
JUNE

16 **Time Traveling Tots** Free Pre-k – Kindergarten class
At LCHM, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM, FREE, Rotating topic

24 **Forest Field Days - Forests Today and Forever**
Group tour for adults and children to Bauman Family Tree Farm
Call ahead to register with Jennifer Yeh (seats limited)
Meet at Museum 11:00 AM

Front Cover: *Modern pen drawings: European and American*, 1901, Pg. 62

DIRECTOR'S CORNER



"Spring has sprung, the grass is riz, I wonder where the birdies is...."

Birdsong has not been as evident this year as past, as even the birds have been kept wetter than usual; however, change is in the wind! We have said goodbye to our long-time Registrar and Curator of Education, Heather Kliever, who is going back to graduate school for teaching. County contractors are measuring this and that in order to get us ready for a long awaited exterior paint job. We are also having electrical conduit rerouted to suit our ever-growing technology and staff needs.

Our development committee is forging ahead with future planning and the knowledge that in order to accomplish our lofty goals of a new museum storage facility and building. We need an expanded membership base and to become more publicly active and visible. We will need to run a capital campaign because it is unlikely that the county will be able to replace our current rented space.

We have stepped up our programming and are providing more regular presentations on a variety of subjects. January saw presentation on forestry. You may have enjoyed hearing *Two-Way Seeing*, with Esther Stutzman and Shannon Applegate at February's annual meeting. In March Gregory Nokes spoke on his book about Oregon's slave history, and we welcomed Melody Owen to present an artist's talk about her work with images of people and trees. The museum was also open special Sunday hours for the Sportsmen's Show and Asian Celebration. You will not want to miss the annual Pioneer Quilters' Quilt Show at the end of April, our largest fundraising event and the museum at its most colorful! Also, *Uprooted: Japanese-American Farm Labor Camps* exhibit will be with us until May.

We are forging strong new relationships with the Oregon Black Pioneers. We also helped with the Wiley Griffon homesite marker, and we have been asked to participate in interpreting the millstone from the old flour mill at the historic Mims House. A new exhibit on our local native peoples is in the planning stages. Author Gregory Nokes has indicated he will be glad to return for another talk, this time on his book, *Massacred for Gold*, about the Chinese miners murdered on the Snake River. We are working hard to present more than one viewpoint in all our programming, to be inclusive of all our history

Please stay tuned for a public announcement in the near future about how the Louise Wade bequest monies will be used. And if you know of a good candidate for a part-time museum educator position, we will be re-advertising that position in mid-April, hoping to start a new staff member in July.

GOOD FOOD AND PLENTY OF IT: A BRIEF HISTORY OF LOGGING CAMP DINING

Faith Kreskey, Curator of Exhibits

From the earliest days of the West Coast timber industry, room and board was nearly always provided for loggers as part of their pay. Nearly one third of working loggers in the 1870s were young, single, and technically homeless. To attract good workers, logging companies advertised that they would provide three meals a day and accommodations. On river drives, where logs would be floated down a river or creek to the point of sale, men would be promised up to five meals per day due to the particularly demanding nature of the work. Providing food was not a merely a nicety - it was a necessity. Men worked twelve hour days logging, work that could burn up to 8,000 calories. Hearty meals quite literally fueled the industry.

Logging camps found in Oregon during this time usually provided enough basic supplies to keep the men fed when they set out for the camp. Since most of these camps were quite remote, variety was not on the menu. The men took turns cooking meals from dried beans, salt pork, hard tack biscuits, and on occasion sauerkraut or other pickled vegetables. They lived, cooked, and ate together in a single room cabin, with up to twenty men living together at a time.

By the 1880s, it was increasingly apparent to camp managers and company owners that they could attract and keep skilled workers by improving conditions. They began building cookhouses at the logging camps, a separate building just for cooking and eating meals. Logging camps also hired a professional cook to prepare meals and purchase supplies. The cook was usually male, and he would be helped by cookees (assistant cooks), flunkeys (serving staff), and bull cooks (helpers who chopped wood for the stoves and helped maintain the cookhouse).

A camp's reputation was made by its cook. In books from the period about the industry it was said that the cook was the second most important person on staff, right behind the foreman. Loggers were willing to put up with poor sleeping quarters and bad weather provided the food was plentiful and well prepared. Advertisements for camps in industry newsletters and labor union publications from the turn of the 20th century listed the camp cooks by name as a way to entice new workers because good men would follow good cooks.

Worry over hiring camp cooks was widespread. If the quality of the food declined, they risked unrest among the men and possibly even strikes. Since a bad cook could upset an entire crew, keeping a cook was very important and cooks were often the second or third highest paid workers in the camp. In the 1890s, a cook would usually be paid around $70 per month, roughly the same pay that teamsters received. By the 1920s, a cook in the Pacific Northwest would make from $125 to $200 per month.

Loggers would not put up with bad cooking, and had interesting ways of showing their displeasure. M.B. "Pug" Huntley, a cook who worked at a number of camps in Lane County, was threatened with a dunking in the river if his cooking did not improve. George McCornack, a logger who worked along the McKenzie River, remembers one of his colleagues being so fed up with tough pancakes he nailed them up on the front of the cookhouse. At another camp in Oregon, a cook was very upset when the men decided his biscuits were only good for throwing at chipmunks.

For the most part, the professional staff hired by camps provided excellent meals for the men. The timber industry in the Pacific Northwest provided the best food for its workers it possibly could. By 1900, the food was far better than what was provided for most casual laborers in manufacturing or agriculture. Thanks to improved food preservation and transportation, meals found at logging camps also excelled in terms of variety. Fresh food was provided year round, and many cooks did not repeat menus in the same week.

Schedules varied, but generally breakfast, lunch, and dinner were served Monday through Saturday, with brunch and dinner served on Sunday so the men could sleep in. Breakfast usually consisted of eggs, biscuits, pancakes, bacon, and coffee. Lunch was a variety of sandwiches, pancake wrapped sausages, fruit, and desserts, often served as a pack lunch for the men who were working too far away to make a trip back to the cookhouse. Dinner was the largest meal of the day with meat, vegetables, potatoes, soup, biscuits or cornbread, and pie all on offer.

Good cooking meant simple cooking. Exotic spices or unusual flavors were well known to make the men antagonistic. Occasionally a cook with gourmet ambitions would try experimenting, like a man known only as Lucien who worked in Coos Bay during the 1920s. The loggers did not appreciate Lucien's crepes Suzette or celery Victor (a braised celery salad), but they did enjoy his chocolate soufflé, which they referred to as a

"mighty fine pudding." Being able to bake well was the most important skill for a camp cook, especially desserts. Instructions for improving camp morale through diet published in the 1910s featured nothing but recipes for pastries. It is worth noting that the average logger during that time would need approximately 800 grams of carbohydrates to fuel a work day, four times what is recommend for a 2,000 calorie diet today.

By the 1920s, as many as 500 men would be fed a day at a large camp, with groups seated every thirty minutes. The cook had to be excellent at planning and management, and would be expected to get the food out to the tables as quickly as possible. All of the dishes were served at once, and the men were allowed to eat as much as they wanted. Although it was not an official rule, meals were eaten in silence. It is not known exactly why this became the custom among loggers.

When chainsaws and other powered machinery were introduced to logging in the 1920s, it cut the number of calories needed to log by nearly seventy-five percent. Many camps continued to provide meals for their crews, but the importance of the cookhouse to operations began to decline. By the 1950s, improved transportation made living at the logging camps unnecessary and most of the remaining cookhouses closed. With less man power needed, less attention was paid to what powered the men.

PHOTOS

Pg. 2 - KE298 (Kennell-Ellis Studios) Five men, including Wendling's head cook on the left, cook up lunch for the 1926 Labor Day picnic.

Pg. 3 - HR46 (Henry R. Ross) Loggers and cooking staff pose in front of a small camp cookhouse near Wendling circa 1900.

Pg. 4 - HR41 Men pose in front of the original Wendling cookhouse circa 1900. The sign above the door reads "Breakfast at 6:10. Doors closes at 20 minutes to 7."

PRESERVING FOR POSTERITY

Tara Puyat, Artifacts Manager

Controlling environmental conditions is one of the best ways to lengthen the life of a museum's collection. Temperature, relative humidity (amount of water vapor present in air) and amount of light exposure are the key factors that need to be kept under careful control. Even small fluctuations in any of these conditions can add or take away decades (or even centuries) from the lifespan of an artifact.

Ideally an HVAC (heating, ventilation and air conditioning) system would be in operation at all times to keep temperature and humidity within the ideal range of 68-70 degrees Fahrenheit and 35-50% relative humidity, with minimal fluctuations. Unfortunately, in many institutions, having such a system is either too expensive, not compatible with existing facilities, or both. In these cases it is important to find a balance between optimal conditions and sustainable conditions and it is critical to have an environmental monitoring system in place. At the very least, temperature and humidity sensors should be placed in all collections and exhibits areas for manual monitoring. Though costly, a more reliable system is to set up data loggers - monitoring devices that can take temperature and humidity readings at pre-programmed time intervals and produce graphs from the gathered data to allow for analysis and adjustment of environmental conditions.

Additionally, limiting light exposure is essential because light damage is cumulative and irreversible. Light meters are important to keep handy in order to check the amount of exposure in any given area. Visible light is measured in Lux units and, depending on the main purpose of a space, ideal light levels vary. For the health of collections, storage area lights should be kept quite dim at 10-50 Lux, just enough to see. Exhibit areas by necessity can have more light, from a range of 50-100 Lux. However, items should only be kept on exhibit for a limited amount of time, which varies depending on the object and its tolerance level. Ultraviolet or UV light is even more damaging than visible light, thus light sources that emit minimal to no UV are best. Textiles and paper are typically the most sensitive to light damage.

One feasible and effective way to control environmental condition for any artifact is to create a stable "microclimate" by putting it in an archival storage box. Boxes provide an extra layer of protection from the surrounding environment and help limit the effects of fluctuating temperature and relative humidity on their contents. Since many archival boxes are made of opaque, acid-free cardboard, they also provide a zero-light environment, thus preventing any light damage while objects are in storage.

Proper and safe care of a museum's collection is an expensive and time consuming process. But it is a necessary step to preserve the health of artifacts and extend their usable life. Fortunately, this is not an all or nothing situation. Museums can, and should, make improvements incrementally - any movement towards best practices can only benefit collections and ensure their survival for succeeding generations to enjoy and learn from.

A TRULY DYNAMIC DUO

Cheryl Roffe, Collections Manager

The Museum archives and research library is blessed to have some of the most committed volunteers to be found anywhere. Two of them are a husband and wife team who have volunteered at the museum since 1995, and probably know the archives better than most of our employees. Keith Wolf is currently cataloging our research library books, 5,532 as of this writing, and besides helping Keith by inventorying, labeling and filing the books after they have been cataloged, Kathy Wolf has worked in almost every area of the artifacts (objects) collection as well as with archival documents, manuscripts and ephemera. We would truly be lost without these two dedicated volunteers.

Both are fascinated with history. Keith has a minor in history from Michigan State University and reads historical works on a regular basis. He also does extensive genealogical research. Although he began his career as a high school librarian in Michigan (and taught one year of high school math which he said cured him of that focus), Keith became interested in Oregon when a former classmate invited him to assist the U. S. Forest Service in surveying logging access roads in the summers near Oakridge. In time, Keith also found himself drafting road information for the agency in winter as well. When the Forest Service eventually decided to contract out the survey work, Keith went back to school at the University of Oregon to obtain his Masters in Library Science. He graduated in 1964, and served as the school librarian at Sheldon High School for 30 years, from 1965 to 1995. Sheldon was the first school in the Eugene area to get a computer system, and Keith trained many teachers in our area in computer use. He made such a fine impression that the Sheldon High School Library bears his name to this day.

Kathy, a native Oregonian, grew up in Grants Pass. Her interest in history dates back to childhood when she imagined being a pioneer with a covered wagon on the Oregon Trail. She also pursued a career in public service, obtaining her nursing degree at Good Samaritan Hospital in Portland , and then serving as a public health nurse in Josephine County from 1966 to 1969. She did home visits and notes that among other things, she worked with a lot of counter-culture residents in the area around Cave Junction and Selma.

In 1969, she attended a football game at Eugene's Civic Stadium with her cousins, and there she met Keith. That was a happy meeting! They married and Kathy moved to Eugene. She was hired as a Lane County Public Health nurse, serving first in the Pleasant Hill and River Road areas, and then in Family Planning until 1995.

Both Keith and Kathy retired in 1995, or rather, they retired from paid employment. Thus began an extensive career in volunteer work. They saw former museum director Ed Stelfox's advertisement in the Register Guard, asking for someone with computer experience to assist in setting up the museum's first computer system. Keith was a perfect match. Kathy asked if she could help, and was drafted to dust the carriages on exhibit. As she clearly showed her usefulness, she was asked to inventory items in the artifacts collection and she has over the years inventoried every shelf in the archives and in the huge mezzanine storage area. Thanks to Kathy's work, we are able to specify the location of all of our archival collections because she has labeled every section and shelf, making it possible for us to access every collection without prolonged searching.

Keith has cataloged maps and manuscript collections, and to him goes the credit for having a functioning research library. When Collections Manager Cheryl Roffe arrived in 2004, the vast majority of the book collection was uncataloged. Books waiting for cataloging had been sitting on the book cart for as long as 15 years. Keith volunteered to tackle the challenge, and not only are over 5000 books now cataloged in the database, but because of Keith's meticulous work, staff members can access topics in dozens of sources with a simple keyword entry .

Of course, Keith and Kathy don't spend all their time at the museum. For years they served as park hosts at Smith Rocks State Park north of Redmond, a park that is a premier site for rock climbers. They also take at least one Elderhostel bicycle tour a year (23 trips in 20 years) visiting such places as Netherlands, northern Italy and eastern Germany. Some of the recent trips have included barge travel as well. And every Christmas, staff at the museum are treated to a huge array of cookies baked by Kathy, which disappear in 24 hours and special mustards prepared by Keith. If you would like to meet this incredible team, stop by any Wednesday morning to say "hello"!

THE COLLEGE CREST COMMUNITY CLUB: AN EARLY NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

Cheryl Roffe, Collections Manager

Eugene is proud of its system of organized neighborhood associations, which give opportunities for neighbors to gather and socialize, and address local concerns. But many might be surprised to learn that such associations are not all that new. In the first half of the 20th century, one of the most thriving groups was the College Crest Community Club, comprised of residents of the southwest hills above Eugene (now the Whitten and Crest Drive areas). From the 1920s through the 1940s, the CCCC had its own clubhouse, situated near the current intersection of Storey Boulevard and Whitten, and members met once a month to plan events and handle the upkeep of the facility. They had monthly potlucks, and hosted special events such as musical programs and an annual Strawberry Festival, to which the entire Eugene area community was invited. They also addressed local problems and had their own water supply district.

Besides recording membership, the election of club officers, payment of dues, and expenses for upkeep of the clubhouse (residents were sometimes asked to volunteer their services for this purpose), the CCCC minute book provides interesting glimpses into the various programs offered by the group. In December 1935, children from Dunn School, located down the hill, performed a Christmas play. This was followed by a "Chalk Talk", in which a "local" (but unidentified) cartoonist drew illustrations for the audience. The club also provided a Christmas tree and a visit with Santa Claus for the children. Other special programs were provided by students from another nearby school, Stella Magladry, and local musicians sang solos and played instruments ranging from violins and harps to harmonicas. The tight-knit group faded in the 1950s, as its long-term residents aged. The legacy was revived with the advent of the Crest Drive Citizens Association in the 1970s (now enlarged to the Southwest Hills Neighborhood Association as of 2015).

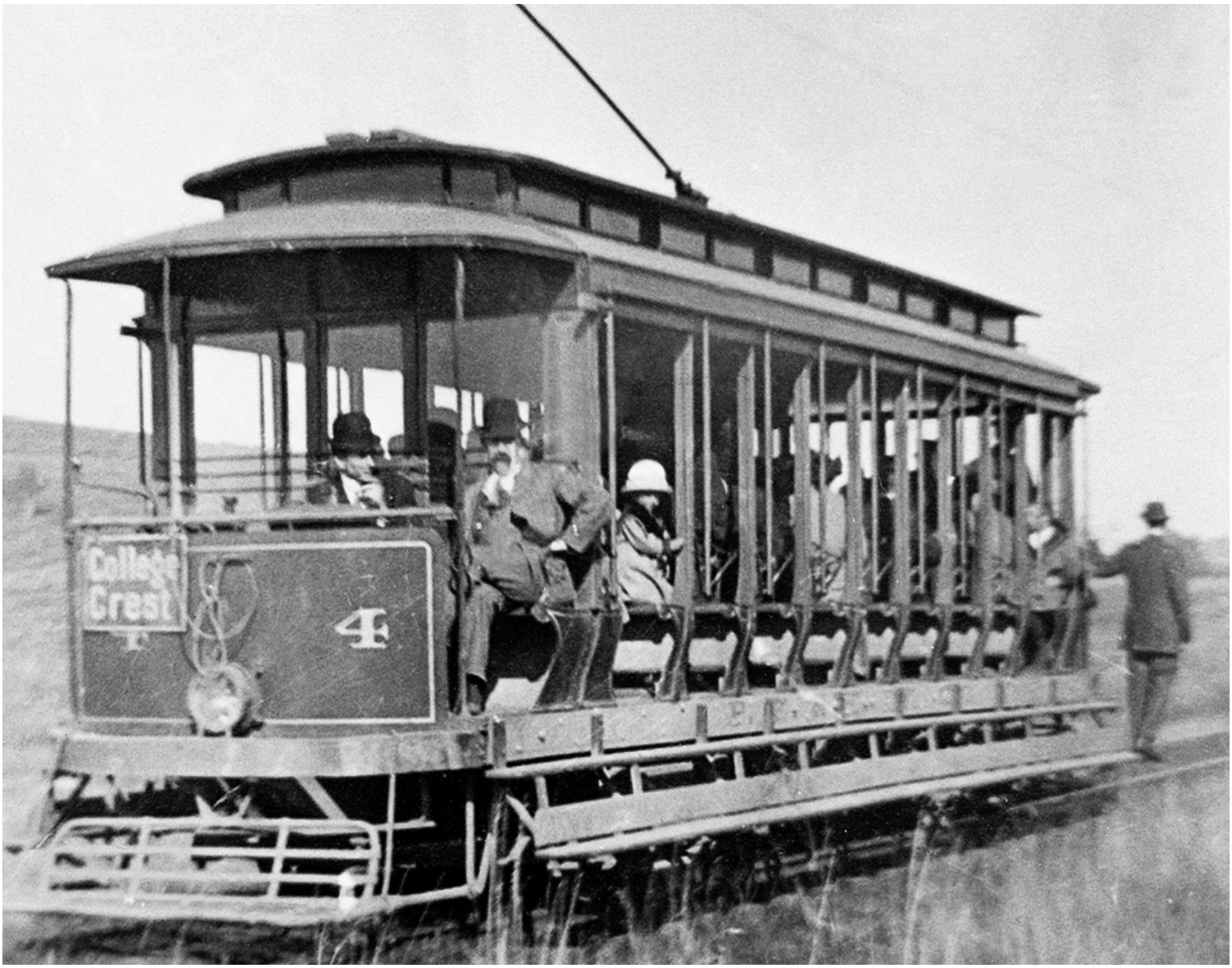
NOTE: The origin of the name College Crest is a bit of a mystery. College Hill to the north was named for the short-lived Columbia College which burned down in 1864. But no college was ever located on College Crest. Any information on this subject would be of interest.

PHOTOS

Above - GN2093 (General Collection) College Crest Community Club, 3350 Whitten Drive, located at the intersection of Whitten Drive with what is now Storey Boulevard. (At time of photo, area was simply known as College Crest).

Pg. 8 - GN4122 College Crest streetcar, which dropped residents off at the base of College Crest on what is now 29th Avenue. Passengers walked up the hill to their homes. Service ended in 1927. This photo ca. 1910.

Pg. 8 - GN10785 College Crest residents gathered on hillside above Eugene. July 1917.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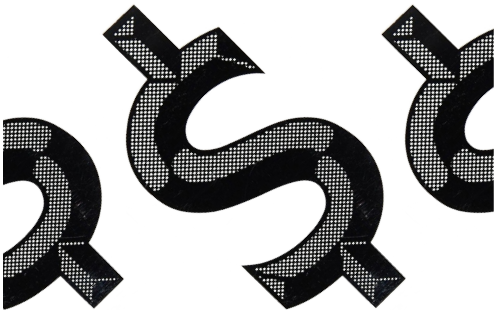
MUSEUM BUSINESS



Leave a Lasting Legacy

These are exciting times for the Lane County Historical Society. Board members and a Development Committee are exploring possibilities for relocating the museum to a more visible site in a new, purpose-built, more functional and versatile building. Meanwhile museum staff and volunteers have undertaken a series of community-minded projects, from special exhibits like "Uprooted, "Lost Towns," and "What If Heroes Were Not Welcome Home" to processing Don Hunter's treasured collection of heritage photos. Attendance, press coverage, and public interest are on the rise.

Support from Lane County's Transient Room Tax (paid by travelers who stay in local hotels and motels) pays for the basics. But changing exhibits, special collections projects, and vitally important conservation efforts could not go forward without support from generous donors.

Monetary Gifts

To leave a lasting legacy, consider a monetary gift to the Lane County Historical Society as part of your estate planning. Lawrence Deckman, a Eugene-based attorney who specializes in trusts and other forms of non-adversarial law, recommends language along these lines:

"I leave [$10,000] [1 percent of my estate] [40 shares of stock in IBM] to the Lane County Historical Society, located at 740 W. 13th Avenue in Eugene, Oregon, or to its successor organization pursuing the same goals."

Questions? Concerns? Please contact Executive Director Bob Hart. You can reach Bob at 541-682-4242 or director@lchm.org.

Mitigating Oregon's Tax Burden for Heritage and the Arts

Did you know that a gift to LCHS, when matched by a gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust (OCT), qualifies you for a tax CREDIT on your Oregon return? There is no other program quite like this in the rest of the country! The Museum's successive digital projects have benefitted from OCT grants since 2007. The grants have ranged from statewide competitive status to county competitive status and the Don Hunter project was the recipient of Lane County Cultural Coalition grants in 2011 and 2012. If you didn't donate to the OCT in 2015, please consider a donation for 2016.

Wendling: The Early Years

Speaker Event, May 20, 2 PM, FREE

Join us at the Lane County Historical Museum with local historian, Jay Swofford, for a rare look into the history of the now gone (but not forgotten) town of Wendling, Oregon beginning in the late 19th century through 1918. In the beginning it was a quiet farming area, raising crops and livestock. By the turn of the 20th century the area boasted a mill and the largest town in the valley. It became one of the most profitable mills in the area, drawing new residents to its well-planned streets.

All was not smooth sailing. Starting around 1906, Wendling struggled through hard times caused by a sudden drop of timber prices. This was partly caused by the San Francisco earthquake that both lowered demand and made it harder to ship logs. In 1910 a major forest fire nearly burned the entire town, even torching the homes of the last of the homesteaders in the area.

After this devastating setback, the operation at Wendling converted completely from old fashioned horse logging to new railroad logging, which led to another growth boom. As mill output increased, the town also increased in size as more people were needed to support workers in the area. However, this upswing was ended by America's entry into WWI as market demands switched from fir to spruce to support war efforts.

Jay Swoffard has spent decades researching the history of this town and the people who called it home. Through oral histories, paper records, photography, and on the ground analysis of the site he has woven together a story of what life was like at Wendling, and how outside forces affected the business and people.

Don't miss this speaker and his fascinating findings that will add an extra layer of understanding to our Lost Towns exhibit and the town of Wendling that can now only be seen as rubble amongst the trees. His presentation will feature photos and archival materials from his personal collection that are one of a kind records of this very special place.

Lane County Historical Museum
740 West 13th Avenue
Eugene, OR 97402

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