



# TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Tillamook County Historical Society (TCHS) was founded in 1984 to bring together those persons interested in preserving the history of Tillamook County. A separate organization from the Tillamook Pioneer Museum and the Tillamook Pioneer Association, from the beginning the Society has concentrated on doing a number of projects such as placing historic plaques, conducting historical tours, printing books about local history and producing a quarterly newsletter with local history topics and up-coming events. The Society schedules quarterly meetings and an annual dinner of the general membership where a speaker or program is planned. Members are welcome to attend the monthly board meetings as well. Annual dues are \$10.00 for Family Membership. Dues are payable on Jan. 1st each year. Members receive the newsletter. Members also receive a 10% discount when joining the Oregon Historical Society.

If you would like to keep receiving the newsletter, please make sure your dues are paid for the current year. We will be dropping those who are more than a year behind from the mailing list due to cost of postage. Thank you.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

Yes, I would like to  RENEW MY MEMBERSHIP  JOIN the Tillamook County Historical Society.

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this form, along with your check to Tillamook County Historical Society, PO Box 123, Tillamook, Oregon, 97141. Thank you for your support.

[www.tcpm.org/tchs](http://www.tcpm.org/tchs)



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P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

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# TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2012

## A WORD FROM OUR PRESIDENT

The Tillamook County Historical Society is getting near the end of another successful year of projects and activities and seeking interested persons to help with events for the coming year.

Our trip over the Trask Toll Road proved more popular than ever, with between 50 and 60 cars and vans making the 47 mile trip to the top of the summit and descending the east side to the Flying M Ranch where we had lunch. We couldn't have had a more beautiful day to take in the view. It was almost too nice to let us fully understand the hardship of winter wet and cold stage coach travel.

Another trip, this one on foot, took us to the new Tillamook County Pioneer Museum's historic Kilchis Point. This was the site of one of the largest Native American communities on the Oregon Coast and an early pioneer settlement. The Morning Star was launched into Tillamook Bay from here as well. Kilchis Point is also part of the Tillamook County Quilt Trail. The Historical Society paid for the quilt block displayed on the Museum building at Kilchis Point and member Diane Colcord designed the block. The Quilt Trail Coalition painted the block.

Several plaques are in the process of being placed on historical buildings and a list of possible and/or unfinished projects are on the agenda.

Preserving and celebrating Tillamook County history is the main goal of our organization. If this interests you, please join us for our monthly meetings and consider becoming an active member, perhaps even a board member. The current board has been working long and faithfully and would love to have some help, see new faces and hear new ideas to keep the organization vibrant and moving forward. The minimum required time is approximately an hour a month (attendance at board meetings). The amount of time you want to invest beyond that is up to you. To hear more about how you might get involved, call one of our board members and join us at our Annual Meeting and Dinner January 23, 2012.

*Sally Rissel*

## LYLE SPECHT AND IONE DOWNEY



This past year Lyle Specht, 92, one of the historical society founders and a past president, passed away, as did Ione Downey, 93, another active and committed Historical Society member.

The Board voted to honor them by placing memorial plaques on shelves at the Tillamook County Library. Lyle's is in the World War II history section, Ione is memorialized in the Tillamook County historical section. These were two very special people and their dedication and interest are missed.



## Historical Society Accomplishments over the last decade:

Tillamook County Historical Marker Book

Tour of Garibaldi Museum

Historical signs placed at Trask Park and other State Forestry locations

Tour of Trask Toll Road: 2006 and 2011

Downtown Historical Tillamook Walking Tour

Historically themed Storyboards Display for Downtown Tillamook's Sesquicentennial

Booths at Tierra del Mar Artist Fairs several years running

Instrumental in getting the city park by the Hoquarton Slough renamed to honor the Sue H. Elmore transportation ship

Participation in the Tillamook County Quilt Trail by purchasing a block for Tillamook County Pioneer Museum Kilchis Point Interpretive Trail

Plaques celebrating history placed on Old schoolhouse in Pacific City Cape Meares Community Center IOOF Building (2nd St. Public Market)

.....More planned.....

## Oregon Cultural Heritage Playing Cards

thanks to Dennis Griffin, State Archaeologist, State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the following.

"In recognition of Oregon's rich cultural heritage, and as a means to increase public awareness of the importance of cultural resources in our state, the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) created a deck of playing cards with both archaeological and historical themes.

The idea for creating a heritage-oriented deck of cards came from preservation-based playing cards that had been published by the US Department of Defense (DOD) in 2007. That deck had been designed for our soldiers fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan as a means to educate the soldiers of the need to preserve cultural sites while they were involved in the war effort. SHPO staff liked the idea of using playing cards as an educational tool to increase awareness of cultural resource preservation; the cards were seen as a way of reminding us of the great antiquity of human land use throughout Oregon's history highlighted by the recent discovery of evidence of human occupation over 14,000 years ago. Oregon today is a testament to the rich Native American history throughout the region and the subsequent settlement and development of the state by a diverse group of ethnic peoples. We chose to focus our attention on the positive aspects of heritage resources and on how people could embrace the concept of stewardship. The deck of playing cards is seen as a good vehicle to support family and community interaction through encouraging game playing while providing the public with a wealth of history on the state's cultural heritage. The cards are available through local schools, historical societies and museums in addition to tribal casinos. The back of the cards features a painting of Fort Rock Cave commissioned by the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD).

Each suit highlights a different area of cultural resources.

**Hearts:** unique historic structures such as the Tillamook blimp hangar, the largest wooden structure in the world; lighthouses, built between 1870 and 1896 to assist our active maritime industry; coastal bridges built by Conde McCullough who believed that bridges should be built efficiently, economically and aesthetically; wooden covered bridges, popular in the late 19th and early 20th century for extending the life of bridges in the wet western part of our state; wigwam or teepee burners, symbols of our state's past reliance on timber harvest; and Hop barns, representing the importance of hop and grain production in our western valleys and the role this industry had in helping migrant workers survive the Great Depression.

**Spades:** a variety of archaeological site types found in the state. These types include: the Mosier Mounds, a massive arrangement of

rock walls, cairns, pits, troughs and alignments located in the hills overlooking the Columbia River; the Peter Iredale shipwreck, one of over 3,000 wrecks that highlight the importance of water vessels in early contact, settlement, trade and recreation in the state; the oldest known house site in Oregon dating to approximately 9,500 years; Dr. Dennis Jenkins' discovery of evidence of humans at the Paisley caves more than 14,000 years ago; Celilo Falls, a major Native American trading and fishing center that attracted natives to the region for over the past 10,000 years; and nineteenth century military forts that offer insights on the daily life of soldiers as well as their interactions with the Native people they were assigned to protect.

**Clubs:** features and artifacts remaining in the landscape that provide evidence of human use and occupation. Some examples of these include: grass sandals from Fort Rock Cave representing the oldest footwear in the world, arborglyphs left by early 20th century Basque shepherders, historic cemeteries; a gold mining dredge to remind us of the gold boom and the role of mining development in the state; basketry recovered from a submerged village site, and historic artifacts such as this pipe bowl that provide evidence of past leisure activities.

**Diamonds:** issues of education and preservation. Themes represented here include: the importance of including archaeology as part of primary school curriculum as well as involving volunteers of all ages; the use of oral history in tapping the memories of our elders; Oregon's Archaeology Celebration month; the adaptive reuse of historic buildings; Oregon's Main Street program; the importance

of having an archaeological monitor when working in sensitive areas; and the meaning of "context" and the importance of leaving artifacts where you find them.

Aside from the specialty suits is a background puzzle, a half-toned historic photograph of Native fishing at Celilo Falls, which can only be seen once all of the 52 cards are assembled in the correct configuration. This puzzle is meant to remind the card user that when artifacts are looted and features destroyed, valuable pieces of the cultural puzzle disappear forever and that it is important that we have every piece if we hope to be able to interpret our past. Our joker was borrowed from the BLM; cultural theft leaves us all a victim.

The creation of these cards is due to the efforts of many agencies and individuals. The printing is possible through the generous donations of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, National Park Service, Association of Oregon Archaeologists, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and ICF Jones and Stokes. The many photographs used on our cards were donated by archaeologists and agencies across the state.

The Tillamook County Historical Society was given 144 of these decks of cards. You may buy a deck now by contacting one of the board members or purchase them at the Annual Meeting and Dinner January 23, 2012. Cost is \$5.00.

## TRASK TOLL ROAD TOUR



The Trask Toll Road tour on September 29th was quite an event. Over 50 cars and vans formed a convoy and following

maps provided by Jim Reeher, while keeping an eye out for the flagging marking where the old and new roads intersected, we actually made it to the Flying M Ranch for a very tasty lunch of chicken, salad and deserts. Wally Brosamle was able to attend the lunch, noteworthy because he was instrumental in researching where the toll road actually went. Spending over two years checking maps, records and so on, we have Wally to thank for a fascinating ride over the mountain tops. The day was clear and sunny and the fellows on the logging operations we drove through seemed to enjoy the novelty of such a line of cars moseying through, giving a wave or two. Next year, the Yamhill County Historical Society would like to hold a tour coming from the other direction, ending up in Tillamook at our Pioneer Museum. One of the original stagecoaches resides on the lower level of the Museum. We look forward to seeing them! If you missed this year's tour, think about going on the one from Yamhill to Tillamook.

Teri Fladstol, a community coordinator for home schooled kids, took the tour with her two children. Following is the report she submitted to their newsletter.

"We left for our tour over the road at 9 a.m. from the Tillamook County Fairgrounds and arrived at the Flying M Ranch at 1 p.m. before heading back to Tillamook. Even though our cars were "high-profile" SUVs, trucks and 4-wheel

drives, there were some white-knuckle experiences as we drove over the road. Several times we were able to cross over from the new road to the old road so we could get a sense of what the travelers would have experienced. We were grateful for our enclosed ride! We returned over the Meadowlake Road from Flying M Ranch to Tillamook and that looked like I-5 in comparison - even with it's 1.5 miles of gravel, one lane road. It was a long day and other than a few stops for photographs, we stayed on task so the loggers in the area could finish up their work and no one got locked on State Forestry or Weyerhaeuser property." Teri, Mom to Elliana and Deacon.



"I can see why it was named the Most Awful Ride in the World...looking at the old road compared to the new road we drove on, it was not very big. My favorite part was when we reached the top of the road and realized we were looking down at the tree tops and we could see Mt. Hood." Deacon, 6th grader.

"It was really fun and cool. I can't even imagine what it was like for the pioneers back then in stagecoaches. My favorite part was reading about the history and then getting to experience it. It was awesome to go all the way to the top, above the tree line and look down to see the valley below." Elliana, 8th grader."

Historical Society Vice President Jim Reeher, who flagged the route this year with marker ribbons, took away this thought from the trip:

"My grandparents came from the low rolling hills of eastern Kansas by train to North Yamhill in the spring of 1887. They moved in the fall to Tillamook by wagon over the Toll Road. The trip took two days. As I was walking the segment by Cougar Springs, I was aware I was on the road my grandparents with their four children had traveled 124 years earlier.

"I wondered what this family from the Great Plains was thinking as they drove through miles and miles of dark forest with its trees 3 to 4 feet in diameter and 250 feet tall. A storm did come up and some trees were blown down across the road. In later years, Grandmother did confess she was convinced they would all be killed by one of those giant trees falling on them. How relieved she must have been to see the natural prairies around Tillamook."

## CAPT. ROBERT GRAY COINS

In 1988 the Historical Society celebrated the 1788 arrival of Captain Robert Gray into Tillamook Bay by minting silver and bronze coins. The coin was designed by Willard Berry and other society members, using one side of the coin that was used as a trading coin by the Kendrick-Gray expedition. Minting took place in Portland, Oregon. The 1000 silver coins contain one ounce of silver each. Five hundred bronze coins were also minted. Each coin is numbered. These commemorative coins are still available for a mere \$25.00 each - an excellent gift for the historian in your family! Contact Willard Berry or Sally Rissel.

## ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER

The Tillamook County Historical Society Annual Meeting and Dinner will be held January 23, 2012 at the United Methodist Church. The meal will be catered by Jennifer Murphy (formerly Sugar Bean Restaurant). Several speakers from around the county have agreed to share some stories. Socializing begins at 5:30 p.m., dinner begins at 6 p.m. If you have any suggestions regarding new board members, please let us know! Election of 2012 officers takes place at this meeting. Most of the board members' terms have gone beyond what the bylaws allow,

but those requirements have been stretched to allow the organization to keep going. We really need new people to step forward to help if this organization is going to continue and before the current board suffers from burnout. Let Sally Rissel know of anyone you would recommend, including yourself! Thank you.

Current Board: Sally Rissel: President, Jim Reeher: VP, Bill Minshall: Secretary, Karen Hirte: Treasurer, Vic Afholter, Don Best, Willard Berry, Lise Zimmerman, Diane Colcord.

RSVP dinner via email: Sally at [heronlanding@oregoncoast.com](mailto:heronlanding@oregoncoast.com) or phone: Minshalls at 503-392-3984 or Diane Colcord at 503-815-8477.

Happy  
New  
Year!