

# COQUILLE VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Established May 2005

September 2005 Quarterly Report (No. 2)

## COQUILLE VALLEY MUSEUM HAS A HOME!!

Thanks to the interest, and generosity, of Mr. Bob Taylor, former owner of Taylor's Sport Shop, the museum will be located at that former business location. The Board Members ratified an agreement with Mr. Taylor that includes a first right to purchase, if he decides to sell the property.

## CITY'S ANTIQUE TOOLS

Penny Lavey and Sandy Gillard attended the City Council meeting the day after Labor Day to ask for **loan** of the Lee Petersen Antique Tool Collection, to display in the Museum. The City Council purchased the collection in 1989. The Council agreed, adding the proviso that the collection shall be returned to the city if the Museum closes.

## WORK PARTIES ARE SUCCESSFUL

A work party on August 27th polished-up the Taylor building inside, and reviewed painting needs. Members of the Board of Directors, Bob Taylor, Penny Lavey, Ben Barton, Jordi Lindegren, Boyd Stone, Hal Strain and Patti Strain, worked several hours on the project.

Bob Taylor organized a second work party Monday September 26th that included Wes and Joyce Hedeem, George Johnson, Tom and Sandy Gilliard, the Board of Directors and Llowel Thomas who took pictures of the event. Three hours passed quickly while moving the Petersen Antique Tool Collection into the Museum.

Sixteen years ago each tool was tagged as

to the name and use and placed in boxes by Nancy Haugland and Patti Strain, when the City purchased the tool collection.

Since that time the tools resided in the basement of the Community Building—waiting for a home. They are in fair condition.

## ALSO SIXTEEN YEARS AGO

Max and Jean Powers produced a VCR of Lee Petersen demonstrating many of his antique tools, and also his skill with a bull whip. We want to collect true stories of Lee's days as a cowboy. If you know some, write them out and give them to a board member. Recently the Strains had the Powers VCR converted to DVD. The digital video disk will be for sale in the Museum for \$19.95.

## STATE OF OREGON APPROVES

Articles of Incorporation have been approved by the State of Oregon for a Non profit Corporation for the Society. Filing is complete for a 501 (c) (3). That means you can make donation to the Society to help preserve our history, and you can take a tax deduction for the amount you contribute. This can be cash or artifacts. (We need cash for utility expenses.)

## LEARN HISTORY BY JOINING AND ATTENDING OUR MEETINGS

Individuals, families and organizations are invited to join this history preservation effort by acquiring membership in the Coquille Valley Historical Society through a small yearly fee as follows:



Annual Membership     \$12.00 per year  
 Family Membership     \$15.00 per year  
 Organization Membership \$100.00 per year  
 Meetings are held at the Museum first and third Thursdays of the month at 7:15 p.m.

**- DRIVING FORCE-  
 DONATIONS WELCOME!**

The March 23, 2005 issue of the Coquille Valley Sentinel carried an article titled "Museum becomes a Coquille goal." The driving force behind this effort is former Taylor's Sport Shop owner, Bob Taylor, and Hjordis "Jordi" Lindegren who works at the Coquille Library. The Chamber of Commerce offers office assistance and fully supports that outstanding goal.

The donation of pictures and artifacts and cash dollars are needed and appreciated.

Call any one of the Board of Directors to make donations. Bob Taylor, President; Jordi Lindegren, Secretary; Mary Barton, Treasurer; Patti Strain, Vice President; and Board Members Ben Barton, Ken Hooten, Penny Lavey, Boyd Stone, and Hal Strain.

**BANDON & NORTH BEND MUSEUMS**

These two museums held educational sessions for our members learning to scan and catalog pictures, and how to have good records and easy access. We also learned legalities of accepting donations, and received forms to copy for our use. **We send our appreciation to the staff of both museums for their time contributed to teaching us.**

**ONE MILLION DOLLARS & MORE NEEDED**

The formerly named Coos County Historical Society received one million dollars from an unknown donor. Renamed Coos Historical Society, they operate the Coos Historical and Maritime Museum at Simpson Park in North Bend. Before our class by Curator Vicki Wiese, Executive Director Anne Donnelly shared drawings of the museum building to be constructed **on the water-front** between Coos Bay and

North Bend, somewhat south of Lumberman's. It will require seven or eight million dollars to build and will greatly benefit The Bay Area, and satellite museums in Coos County.

**WHY DOESN'T THE COOS COUNTY  
 SEAT (COQUILLE) HAVE A  
 MUSEUM?**

According to historian Boyd Stone the first "*county historical society*" was established in Coquille on November 15, **1891**.

Excerpts from Boyd's article:\*

*"The Coos County Historical Society prospered for 17 years with annual meetings lasting up to three days with picnics and tours made to different historical sites by river boat or horse-drawn vehicles. By 1894 there were 139 members."*

*"In 1897, Curry County joined the society and the name was changed to the Coos Curry Historical Society. Meetings were held at various locations in both counties with local bands furnishing music. Many speeches were made, and tall tales were told by those old pioneers, as only they could tell them."*

*"The last record found of a meeting was in 1908, but the society left us with a lasting memorial in the form of a book. Compiled by Orvil Dodge, "Pioneer History of Coos and Curry Counties" was unmatched among the early county histories of Oregon."*

*"A rebirth of the Coos Curry Pioneer Association was started in 1941 with 82 members."*

In 1946 five hundred attended a Pioneer meeting [in the Community Building?] where Governor Earl Snell was the speaker. The community raised money. In 1947 "*a building 60-feet long was erected along the south side of the community building at a cost of \$1,695. ... By 1955, they had outgrown their building,*" and searched for a new site.

North Bend said "*Yes, we have the perfect spot in Simpson Park alongside Highway 101 with ample parking and display space we will donate.*"

**And that is where "our" museum went! It has been there over 50 years. It now houses the newly renamed Coos Historical and Maritime Museum. No complaints, just history.**

\*See Boyd's full article in 7-2-05 issue of Sentinel.