

## TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The current Tillamook County Historical Society was formed in 1984 to bring together those persons interested in preserving the history of Tillamook County. The Society concentrates on doing a number of projects such as placing historic plaques, conducting historical tours, printing books about local history and producing a newsletter with local history topics and upcoming events. **Let us know how you would like to participate as a volunteer.** Members are welcome to attend all meetings. Annual dues are \$20.00 for Family Membership and include the newsletter.

**If you would like to keep receiving this 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. Thank you.**


**PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR EMAIL HAS CHANGED!**

### 2022 TCHS MEETING SCHEDULE

TCHS is restructuring in 2022 and will be having a program for each meeting, public invited.

Meetings are usually the second Tuesday of each month with occasional field trips to areas of historical interest.

For more information visit: <https://www.tcpm.org/tillamook-co-historical-society.html>

 Watch for updates on our facebook page.  
[www.facebook.com/tillamookcountyhistoricalsociety/](https://www.facebook.com/tillamookcountyhistoricalsociety/)

Are you interested in local history? Do you have stories that need to be preserved and shared? The Tillamook County Historical Society (TCHS) wants you!

REQUEST RETURN SERVICE

<https://www.tcpm.org/tillamook-co-historical-society.html>

P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

**TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

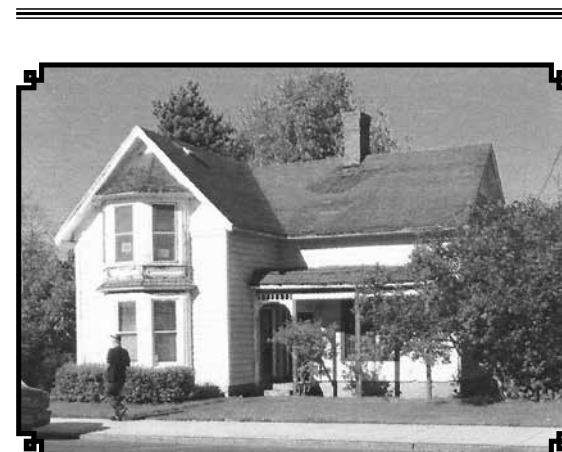


## TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

JUNE 2022

On Saturday, July 16th, we will be hosting a **YOUTH LOCAL HISTORY SCAVENGER HUNT**. It will be a month-long game visiting different historical locations and finding answers to questions about local history. When completed you will get a very special award from the Tillamook County Historical Society.



HOQUARTON HISTORICAL INTERPRETIVE CENTER

*This turn-of-the-nineteenth century house is believed to be the oldest in Tillamook. It has been moved back on the property and is being restored to start its new life as an interpretive center with exhibits and science classes. It will also be the meeting place for the Tillamook County Historical Society.*

TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



WALKING TOUR  
HISTORIC TILAMOOK  
HOMES



JUNE 14, 2022  
1:00 p.m.

Meet at the  
Hoquarton Historical Interpretive Center

In addition to the booklet distribution, activities will be available to participate in on July 16th.

Participants can pick up a **scavenger hunt booklet** between 1-3 pm at the Hoquarton House which is located east of the Post Office in Tillamook.

To receive a **local history detective award** participants can start returning their completed booklets at the Tillamook County Historical Society booth at the County Fair.

If unable to attend the fair, arrangements have been made to pick up awards at TC Pioneer Museum after the fair through Labor Day.

Come join the fun! Bring your kids and/or grandkids!



## TCHS MEETING SCHEDULE FOR 2022

Masks may be required except for outside meeting. Meetings will be held Tuesdays at the Tillamook Library, except where otherwise noted. There will be a brief TCHS meeting following presentations if you care to attend.

JUNE 14, 1 pm Sally Rissel - Old Home Walking Tour, beginning at Hoquarton House

JULY 16, Saturday 1 - 3 pm Children's History Day  
A month-long local history scavenger hunt for kids grades K-6. Participants with an adult meet at the Hoquarton House (east of the PO) to pick up their booklet. A mini scavenger hunt and other activities will also be presented this day.

AUGUST 9, 1 pm Michele Bradley - the Port /Near Space and more. Learn why our Port is so unique and special. Meet at the Port offices.

SEPT. 13, 1 pm Julie Hurliman talks about the Tillamook County Quilt Trail and future plans.

OCT. 11, 1 pm Lisa Sears - Tillamook Cemetery Group, now officially part of the TCHS. Welcome!



NOV. 8, 1 pm Tierra del Mar History.

DEC. 13, 1 pm Monday Musical Club.

## TURNING BEDS AND SHARING STORIES AT THE LATIMER QUILT AND TEXTILE CENTER - BY ROBERT G. RUSSELL

The Tillamook Historical Society (TCHS) held a recent meeting in a sunny backroom of Tillamook's Latimer Quilt and Textile Center. It was a chance to combine our monthly meeting with a special event—in this case a "bed turning." What's a bed turning? You're not alone if you don't know. It turned out that only two in our group knew what it was.

The Latimer is housed in a cozy old two-room schoolhouse, nestled in a rural residential setting on the banks of the Wilson River. From the moment we entered the wood-scented building a wonderful spell fell on everyone. Here we were, meeting about Tillamook history, and we were surrounded by it. All around us were troves of gorgeous fabric and artwork, all showing signs of care and love. In every corner were examples of living history—wall hangings, bed coverings and personal heirlooms, created with a kind of devotion and attention to detail that gives one hope for humanity. It was a lot to take in, and we hadn't even gotten to the bed turning.

After a quick business meeting we were met by our hosts, Carol Weber and Lorraine Woodward. Both have been deeply involved in the Latimer Center for many years, and have yards and yards of quilt knowledge in their heads. They gathered us up and led us further back into the catacombs of the Latimer, eventually descending into a storage area that felt like an old-time version of Bed Bath & Beyond. There were shelves from floor to ceiling packed with bagged quilts and artwork. Lorraine explained that everything in these storage areas had been run through a careful process of cleaning and preserving, including having been frozen to remove molds and critters from any wool and silk.

There, in the center of the last room, was a solitary bed—the bed we had come to see. It did not appear to be turning, at least not yet.

"Does anyone here NOT know what a bed turning is?" asked Lorraine. I had a moment of nervousness, then looked around and saw that almost all of our hands were up. Whew!

"A bed turning is how we show quilts and tell their stories," Lorraine continued, peeling back the top quilt to reveal many more stacked underneath. "Today we're starting with this one, a 'crazy quilt' that took over two years to create."



Carol Weber and Lorraine Woodward in the act of turning a bed. They make it look easy!



One of the beautiful flower patterns that has been preserved in the archives of the Latimer for over a century. The colors are still vivid and heart warming.



The Latimer Quilt and Textile Center is a treasure trove of history, and one of the gems of Tillamook County.

We all leaned in and touched the top quilt, marveling at the truly crazy pieces of odd-sized fabric, sewn together and decorated with impossibly detailed embroidery. I heard myself say what I was thinking, "Who could possibly have time to make something like this?"

Carol took the question: "These types of quilts were mostly made by women of leisure," she said. "They often had servants who took care of the house work and the kids, so they could take on a project like this. At the time, quilts were symbols of status."

Next came a distinctive quilt said to have been made by none other than Rosa Kilchis. An accompanying piece of paper explained that Rosa was the daughter of Chief Kilchis, although there was some discussion about whether that was accurate. The quilt was bright and colorful, seemingly modern, with diametric lines breaking it into quadrants.

Carol offered some interpretation: "This is a crazy quilt, too, as you can see from the random shapes of the pieces. The story goes that the lines in this piece represent important pathways the tribe used as ways of escape."

"To escape what?" someone asked.

There was a moment of hesitation, and then, "Us? Or maybe raiding parties from other tribes?" We pondered that for a moment, and Lorraine folded back Rosa's quilt to reveal the next story.

Carol and Lorraine shared another 15 or 20 quilts over the next 45 minutes, taking turns with stories and offering detailed explanations of the varied materials used. There were familiar shirt fabrics from the late 1800s, there were flour sacks, old curtains, and several special dyes that only could have come from a certain time and place. The overall effect of these stories on the crowd was a mix of astonishment and inspiration. I remember thinking "If these people could make these amazing quilts, then any one of us must be capable of nearly anything!"

It was a wonderful event, and we all left invigorated. It underlined something we all knew: that the Latimer Quilt and Textile Center is one of the gems of Tillamook. It features rotating exhibits, interpretive tours, a research library and a gift shop. They also offer weaving instruction and sign-ups to use their amazing looms. The mission of the Latimer is to preserve, promote, display, facilitate the creation of, and provide education about textile arts. If you would like to stop by, or if you'd like to organize a bed turning for your community group, call 503-842-8622. The Latimer is located at 2105 Wilson River Loop Road, just a quarter mile east of 101.