


## TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Tillamook County Historical Society became a 501(c)3 in 1984 to bring together those persons interested in preserving the history of Tillamook County. TCHS is exploring new ways to reach out to people for 2023. We are tentatively planning three main special meetings to be held on Saturdays, with business meetings every other month. Keep checking on our Facebook page for updates.

We are a separate organization from the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum and Tillamook Pioneer Association, concentrating on doing a number of projects such as placing historic plaques, conducting historical tours, printing books about local history and producing a semi-annual newsletter with local history topics and upcoming events. Annual dues are \$20.00 for Family Membership.

**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!**

 Watch for updates on our facebook page.  
www.facebook.com/tillamookcountyhistoricalsociety/

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**TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141  
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## TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

JUNE 2023

### MARCH EVENT AT THE OLD WHEELER HOTEL



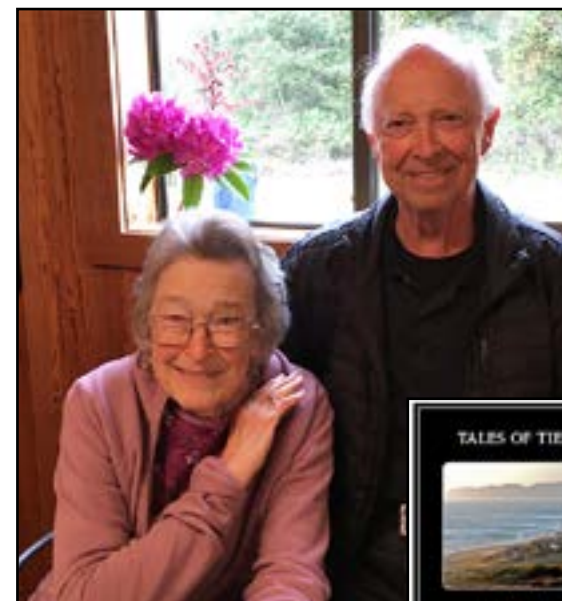
Saturday, March 18, Katie Brown presented a program to over 25 guests about the rich history of Wheeler, how it was formed and leading up to the building of the Old Wheeler Hotel and what is happening there now. This hotel began as Hotel Rector, was later Rinehart Clinic and then back to an hotel. She has a passion for this small town that shines through. A rich history and beautiful rooms. Let us know if you would be interested in attending a repeat of this in the future.



### TIERRA EL MAR, MAY 27, 2023

There was a great turnout for the Tillamook County Historical Society booksigning event, with Diana Sears signing her book about *Tales of Tierra Del Mar*. We sold over 60 of the 100 copies we had printed. Sally Rissel did a very nice job of explaining all the other books TCHS has published over the years, including alerting us to the next in line about the Whitney Company (logging and railroad) to show up in August (*see inside*). Dave Sears gave an entertaining history of the Sears homestead, now 100 years old, with much of the family still living on parts of it. He also spoke of how important it is that we record our history and was so very appreciative of what Diana had accomplished in her book. Such fun and such nice folks!

To inquire about a copy, email TCHS at [tillcohs@gmail.com](mailto:tillcohs@gmail.com) or send a check for \$20 plus \$5.00 postage to TCHS, POBox123, Tillamook, OR, 97141.

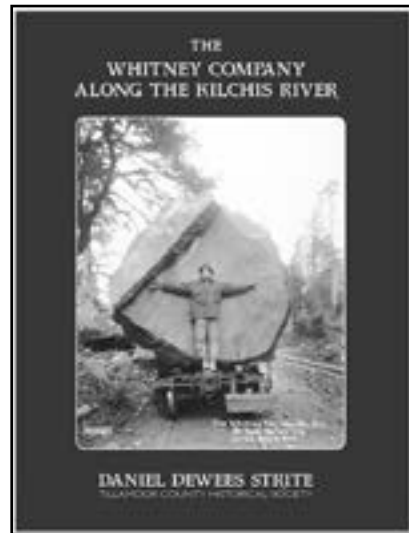


Beginning at top left: Diana Sears and Jim Spring; Sally Rissel; Neal Lemry and interested party; Diana and friend, Dave Sears.



## WHITNEY COMPANY ALONG THE KILCHIS RIVER VINCE BOGARD

Foreword to the book Whitney Company Along the Kilchis River, edited for space:



My interest in Kilchis Point and Whitney Logging began sometime in 1951. I was a curious eight-year old who liked to explore. After my dad, Art Bogard, sold his partnership in Boulder Creek Lumber, we moved from Blaine Road in South Tillamook County to what was locally known at the time as the "Marcellus Place" near Kilchis Point.

Let me begin by telling you about the property that my folks purchased from Dr. Marius Marcellus, who had served as a surgeon of the 41st Infantry Division in World War I. During World War II he was a staff physician at the San Francisco Veterans Hospital. The property was located north of Tillamook and west of the Southern Pacific rail line on Idaville Road. It consisted of 100 acres, three houses and a 40-cow dairy barn. The main house had six bedrooms, 2 ½ baths, and four fireplaces.

I recall Dad stating that the deed read that the property line extended to the mean mean low water mark of the Kilchis River at

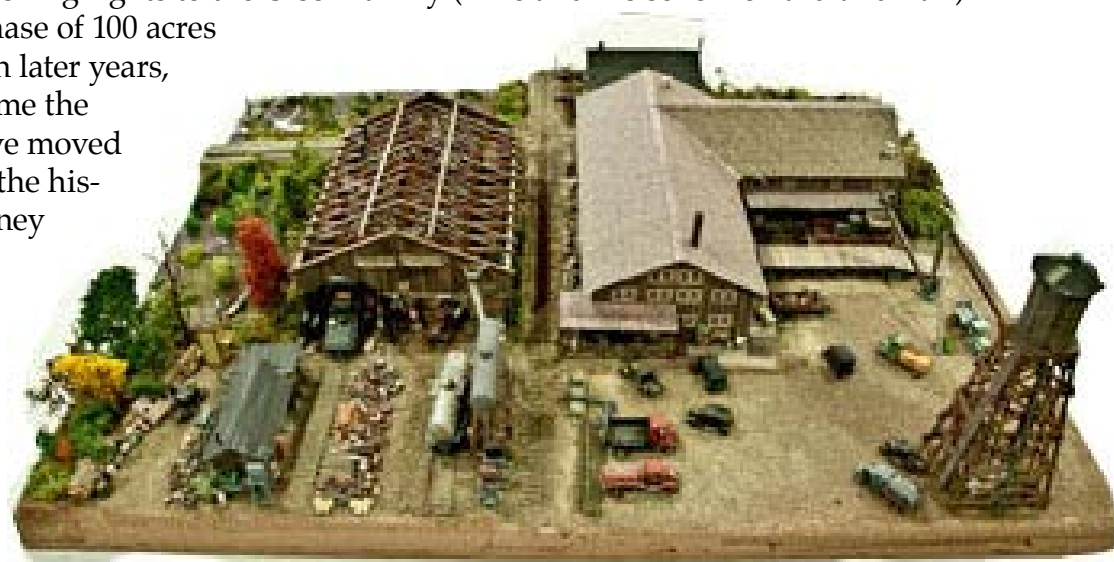
low tide. This meant his purchase included ten set net fishing sites that crossed the Kilchis River at high tide. Dad leased the net fishing rights to the Olson family (Axle and his sons Howard and Earl). Dad made an additional purchase of 100 acres north of the Marcellus place. In later years, a portion of the property became the Kilchis Point Reserve. When we moved there we knew nothing about the history of Kilchis Point and Whitney Logging.

In the field just west of the house, there was a berm several feet high. Dad leveled that berm with his D-7 Cat. (I later learned that it was an Indian shell midden.) There was already an opening in the berm where a railroad grade went out to a log dump trestle.

As a youngster exploring the property in the early 1950s, I located a large concrete pit and footings in the woods near the Southern Pacific Line.

It was after 2003 that I and my wife Louise hiked the area and I again located the footings of what by then I knew to be Whitney's Engine House, which was used to service and repair engines and other rolling stock. Thus began my quest to study and preserve more of the history of Kilchis Point and the Whitney Company.

In my early research, I contacted Ruby Fry Matson at the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum explaining my interest in history and photos of Whitney Company. Sometime later, Ruby contacted me to say that Dr. Gary Brooks of Willamina was at the museum seeking information about Whitney Logging Co. Contact information was shared that resulted in Gary Brooks, Josh Herzberg, Lloyd Palmer and myself putting boots on the ground to visit the engine house site. We measured the footing locations, then followed the right-of-way out to the log dump.



Model of Whitney camp by Gary Brooks

On a later field trip we drove "up the Kilchis" where we were able to locate a number of sections of the Whitney Company rail bed. It went all the way up to the White Star Camp, which was the end of the rail line and included the site of the turn table at Red Star Camp. A spur that turned off of the main line near Red Star Camp, led to the incline with Blue Star Camp, which was located at the top of the ridge.

After the Blue Star Camp field trip, Matt Wolford, who had expertise in mapping and satellite images, joined our group of four. Additional information was found in Oregon Historical Society quarterly report articles written by Daniel Dewees Strite.

I was very impressed with Mr. Strite's knowledge and thorough recollection of time he spent in the Idaville area as a young man beginning with engineering of the railroad right of way and buildings for Whitney Company and their mill in Garibaldi. His story was informative and entertaining, depicting life among steam era railroading and logging communities between 1917 and 1927.

To make this information more readily available to everyone, I enlisted the help of Sally Rissel and Diane Colcord of the Tillamook County Historical Society. With their help and that of Ann Rogan who transcribed the articles, you are now able to enjoy looking back into an earlier time and appreciate what those loggers achieved.

As a young lad discovering the large concrete pit and footings in the woods, I never could have dreamed that one day I would know more about how and why they came to be there! Now I invite you to know about it too.

**Saturday, August 5, 2023 at 4 p.m., the TCHS unveils the book THE WHITNEY COMPANY ALONG THE KILCHIS RIVER.** A first hand telling of logging in the early 1920s by Daniel Dewees Strite, this story was originally published in the Oregon Historical Society Quarterlies in the 1970s. The event is open to the public and will be held at the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, 2106 2nd Street, Tillamook.

## CEMETERY HAPPENINGS - LISA SEARS

Join us for a captivating journey through time at the Bay City Cemetery! Discover the hidden stories and rich history that lie within these hallowed grounds. Our historical cemetery interpretation event offers a unique opportunity to explore the lives of those who came before us, unraveling the mysteries of the past. Engage with knowledgeable guides as they bring to life the tales of pioneers, war heroes, and prominent figures buried here. Immerse yourself in the ambiance of this serene resting place and gain a deeper appreciation for the heritage of our community.

**Don't miss this chance to connect with history on September 16, 2023, at Bay City Cemetery. All are welcome!**



We are also seeking passionate individuals to join us this summer in preserving the legacy and beauty of our local cemetery. Whether you have a green thumb, an eye for detail, or simply a heart full of compassion, your contribution can make a significant impact. Let's ensure that the stories and memories etched in stone endure through time. Join us in this great cause of cemetery preservation and be a guardian of our shared history.

Contact us at [tillcohs@gmail.com](mailto:tillcohs@gmail.com) or through our Facebook page for more information about our historical cemetery interpretation or our weekly preservation group.

