

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.

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!

THIS NEWSLETTER IS SPONSORED BY THE AUFDERMAUER FAMILY

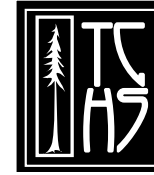
 Watch for updates on our facebook page.
www.facebook.com/tillamookcountyhistoricalsociety/

Web: tillamookhistory.org
Email: tillamookhistory@gmail.com

REQUEST RETURN SERVICE

<https://www.tillamookcountyhistoricalsociety.org/>
P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY



TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

JULY 2024



TCHS Annual Meeting was held at the Bay City Arts Center with Speaker Michele Bradley presenting a fascinating presentation about all that goes on at the Port of Tillamook Bay. If you weren't there, you missed a good talk and chance to ask questions! Thanks to Michele for the encore presentation.

This newsletter we are highlighting officers and board members of the Historical Society. These are the people most involved in sustaining the organization, doing the work, selling our books, creating events and more. Join us and become one of the doers. We'd love to have you!

The question posed: "why do you belong to the historical society, what makes it worth your time?"

Neal Lemery, President of TCHS



I've always been interested in history, one of the gifts of my parents and grandparents.

On road trips, every historical interest sign along the way was a "must see", followed by a discussion in the car about how that history shaped the people

who lived there, and what we could learn from those stories. We often visited museums, and I was always challenged to look at all sides of the past, and called upon to explain my own analysis of events.

My grandmother's "parlor" had a small child's hand carved and rawhide rocking chair. Its story was that it came to Oregon on my great grandparents' covered wagon on the Oregon Trail and made its way to Tillamook County on horseback. Eventually, it came into my hands and I joyfully handed it down to my niece, continuing the family stories.

In college, I took a history class from a professor, not necessarily for the knowledge of American diplomatic history, but for his ability to impart critical thinking skills. We read original sources and were challenged to look at all sides of issues. I learned that history is the best teacher of reason, logic, and human psychology.

I'm a collector of stories, and I continue my childhood practice of always asking "why?" History is part of most everything in my life, my career in the law, gardening, music, and volunteering in the community. When we are avid students of history, we find better answers to the questions of today.

DO YOU REMEMBER THESE?

Note from Newsletter editor: Were you a Tillamook Cheezet? aka Cheezette? These circa 1945 items were recently donated to the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum, in very good condition. I couldn't help but be amused by the name. Is there anyone who can provide any stories about the Cheezettes? Were you a member? What kind of club was it? What were you expected to do as Cheezette? Involved with sports, greeting dignitaries or perhaps honor societies? We would love to have you share any information you may have. Thank you in advance. tillamookhistory@gmail.com



Fun fact: Cheezits, the cracker, came on the scene in 1921.



Eric Simmons, Vice President of TCHS

I joined the Historical Society to learn more about the history of Tillamook County and also to contribute my historical knowledge to aid in educating and preserving the County's history for future generations.



Barb Aufdermauer, Treasurer

I had been a member for some time. I had only gone to the annual dinners. My sisters and myself were at Sunset Cemetery putting flowers on a few graves when I noticed a tall blond lady trimming the hedge. I approached her and she told me she was "GPSing" grave markers and some were under the hedge. She told me about her project and I thought that sounds interesting. That was my first introduction to Lisa Sears (the grave marking and cleaning guru). The cemetery project is a TCHS project, well I thought to myself "I better check this out". I attended my first TCHS meeting and I was hooked. Such a nice group of people and they were active with different projects all the time.



Lisa Sears, Secretary

I embarked on my membership in 2020 by beginning a local historical cemetery project. Looking to connect with like-minded individuals and seek collaboration opportunities, I found my way to the historical society. From the very first meeting, I was fascinated by the projects members were engaged in and was introduced to the Tillamook History Alliance. The support, information, and encouragement I received from fellow members proved helpful in my own project. Enthused by the welcoming atmosphere, I immediately became a member of the group, where I have since deepened my connections with other members and actively participated in numerous projects. I have also invited other community members to join the group. For me, the Tillamook Historical Society is not just a place for historical exploration but a hub of inspiration and camaraderie with interesting and fantastic individuals who share my passion for preserving local history.



Vince Bogard, Board Member, with his wife Louise

Since I was young, I have enjoyed history. When I was about 10 years old I located concrete footings in the woods at Kilchis Point. Many years

later I learned it was at the Whitney Logging Company Headquarters camp.

After much research and with the assistance of Sally Rissel, Diane Colcord and Tillamook County Historical Society (TCHS), the book *The Whitney Company Along the Kilchis River* was born.

My wife and I became lifetime members of TCHS shortly after retiring back to Tillamook. I became more active when it appeared the organization was waning with only 2 or 3 people doing everything. Now TCHS has "new blood" with active directors making things happen. This organization not only preserves local history, it also promotes it.



Kathy Jensen, Board Member

I joined TCHS because I was interested in the history of the area. My family goes back several generations and I'm always finding out new things I didn't know. I have had some distant relatives wanting to find family info and through this group learned where to look. My Dad, Wayne Jensen, was a local historian and go to person for family history. Unfortunately, he passed away with a lot of knowledge about the area and the family going with him. It's a great group to ask questions and get direction to local historical resources in the area.



Sally Rissel, Past President and nearly every other office

I joined the TCHS over twenty years ago. It has become a big part of my life in retirement. I have met so many interesting people that I would not have met otherwise. I have learned more about North and Central Tillamook history and am able to share my knowledge of South Tillamook History. The meetings are casual and open to new ideas and projects. We need active members who will contribute. Join us.

Editor note: Sally's favorite artifact is the canoe at TCPM.



Jim Reeher, Past President and nearly every other office

My introduction to the Historical Society was through Willard Berry. But during board meetings I gradually made more good friends.

When the Historical Society was reorganizing a Trask tour through State Forestry, BLM and Weyerhaeuser land, I volunteered to help with the layout of the trip from Trask Park to the Flying M Ranch and Restaurant.

Growing up I had heard much about the Trask Toll Road and how the Reeher family had come from Kansas via train and how they had traveled to Tillamook from Yamhill by the toll road.

As I was flagging visible remnants of the road, I could imagine my grandmother, 27 years old, and my grandfather 31 years old, and their four children riding in a horse drawn wagon over the same road (called by some the most awful ride in the world) 124 years earlier.



Editors note: Jim is now in his early 90s and we greatly miss his "Reeherisms" at our meetings. The photo of Jim as a young lad is from his book "Keeping Memories Alive." Jim generously donated the cost of printing the book as well as all the revenue from its sale going to TCHS.



Colleen Maguire, Board Member and our newest member.

When I was looking for a place to relocate, I was attracted to the older homes for sale in Tillamook. I'd lived in a couple of old houses in Montana and thought it might be fun to take on another project. I'd driven through and fallen in love with the area but before making a decision I wanted to know a little more about the community.

Late one night, while still living in Bend, I happened on the TCHS website. I was so energized by what I saw! It was obvious that there was a deep love of history here – something I very much shared. The walking tour brochure struck a special chord because it reminded me of one a friend

had done in my hometown. I couldn't wait to wake up in the morning and start my house search for real because I'd made my decision that Tillamook was the place for me.

While getting settled, I saw an announcement for the unveiling of the new Whitney Company book. It was held at the museum on a Saturday afternoon in August and the room was overflowing. I was so impressed by all the speakers, along with the genuine interest from the audience. I picked up a membership envelope on my way out. Sending in my dues moved to top of my to-do list. I was hoping to get on a mailing list for upcoming events and I wasn't disappointed! Not long after I sent the check I got a welcome letter in the mail, including an invitation to the Journey Through Time cemetery tour in September. I remember Barbara greeting me at the cemetery and making me feel welcome right from the start. I think I would have been more than happy just attending special events but I got yet another beautifully designed invitation in the mail. This time it was for the October monthly meeting at the library. I'm not very comfortable in new situations but, because I'd enjoyed the other events so much, I decided to attend.

The rest, as they say, is history. Everyone has gone out of their way to share their knowledge, make me feel included as part of the group, and most especially show unlimited patience with this overly enthusiastic newbie! Without those invitations, and the time and thoughtfulness it took to send them, I might have missed out on an amazing experience, as well as the opportunity to meet a very special group of history lovers.

Jan Burt, Board Member

My interest in cemetery preservation is how I got hooked up with the Historical Society. There are so many interesting projects going and fun people to work with. This is critical work for our community and fun to be part of.

Editor's note: Hard to track down a photo of Jan, but you can find her often Tuesday afternoons helping to clean up Bay City Cemetery.



Diane Colcord, Board Member, newsletter editor, former Treasurer

Checking through my computer files, it seems I began providing graphic skills as far back as 2008. I seem to remember Margaret Winslow getting me involved somehow at a TCHS lunch meeting at the Rendezvous Restaurant. At that meeting was Sally Rissel and so began our long joint adventure creating flyers, brochures,

place mats for quarterly meetings and annual dinners and finally actual books. Involvement with the Historical Society has brought me life long friends and an exposure to all sorts of things historic, places off the beaten track and things right in our own back yard. As a group we have survived Covid and zoom and are back to meeting in person, re-energized and full of ideas. Come join us and bring your ideas. Learn about our expanding list of books, our website, plans for the future. Help keep our Tillamook County History alive and growing.



Way back before computers churned out our newspapers or a newsletter.

Support your Tillamook County Historical Society by sending in your membership dues. Thank you! Your support is invaluable.