



TILLAMOOK COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

P.O. BOX 123, TILLAMOOK, OR 97141

JANUARY 2026

ANNUAL MEETING • JANUARY 18, 2026 • 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

Kiawanda Community Center in Pacific City, 2 p.m. Light refreshments and the public is invited.

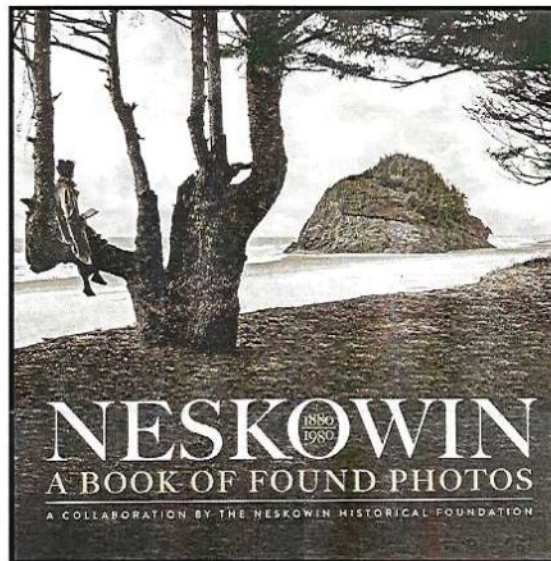
In 2025, the Board reviewed the TCHS Bylaws and now proposes revisions to be adopted at the January 2026 Annual Meeting. Mostly editorial in nature, we believe it is better organized and easier to read. If you would like to review current and proposed Bylaws, please make a request by email at tillamookhistory@gmail.com or by phone at 541-480-8740.

Our annual meeting with feature a presentation on the history of Neskowin, by Jim Affolter. He is one of the editors of a new book, "Neskowin: A Book of Found Photos," published by the Neskowin Historical Foundation.

South Tillamook County is blessed to have a new book celebrating our local history. The non-profit Neskowin Historical Foundation recently published a beautifully crafted book, "Neskowin: A Book of Found Photos," about Neskowin's history, covering the period from 1880 to 1980 time frame.

Neskowin has a remarkable history unlike that of other coastal towns. It began with campground hotel, beach cabins, and a village of homes, today. Many homes are still owned by second and third-generation families, with memories of renting homes and coming to Neskowin every summer. The town was isolated for many years because of rough roads and difficult transportation. The town has little commercial development, which makes it unusual for coastal towns today.

The goal was to gather pictures from museums and individual collections, and to add original, long-forgotten images from longtime residents of their childhood and early experiences in Neskowin. Many of these images, loaned to the project, had never been seen before. The response was overwhelming. From all over the country, people went into their attics and photo albums to submit possibilities to the book. Over 1,000 images were submitted to the book committee from 61 families, and over 600 were selected for inclusion in the book. The book



doesn't just contain pictures but also many historical maps and memorabilia from early times.

At times, some of the pictures needed to be restored and enlarged, saving them in high resolution. Each photo in the book is accompanied by a detailed caption that includes people's names, the location, and the year the photo was taken. Because of the number of pictures available, the committee divided the book into 10-year decades, with a timeline of events for each section.

The book's foreword was written by history professor Stephen Dow Beckham, who has written extensively about the Neskowin Indians who fished Neskowin Creek and whose chief was Chief Kiwanda. The few remaining tribe members were reluctantly moved in their dugout canoes from Cascade Head to homes along the Salmon River and to the newly created Siletz Reservation as early settlers took up land claims.

The book is a collaboration from the founding members of the Neskowin Historical Foundation and took over two years to produce. Each member contributed their expertise in some way. Their goal was to produce the best and most accurate account of Neskowin's special history.

Books may be purchased for \$100 per copy at Neskowin Provisions and the Oregon Coast Bank's Pacific City branch. You can order online at NeskowinHistoricalFoundation.org. Two books have been donated to the Tillamook Library, making it available to everyone. All proceeds support the non-profit mission to collect, preserve, and share the visual history of Neskowin.

HISTORICAL MARKERS DEFINING SPACES - Lisa Sears



One of the Tillamook County Historical Society's ongoing projects is the identification and recognition of historic buildings throughout Tillamook County. Over the past years, the Society has placed approximately 20 historic markers across the county. In 2025, four additional markers were installed on locally significant buildings. Most recently, in December, the Tierra Del Mar Community Hall was officially added to this distinguished list.

The building was originally part of the Coatesville housing development in Tillamook and is approximately 80 years old. This is documented by a 1944 photograph of the community held by the Tillamook County Air Museum. The housing was constructed during World War II to accommodate military officers and their families. The

community took its name from the Coates Lumber Company, which supplied the lumber used in the construction of the homes.



So how did the building end up as a Community Hall in Tierra Del Mar? According to Diana Sears in her book, *Tales of Tierra Del Mar*, the Club continued to grow, was no longer practical. In

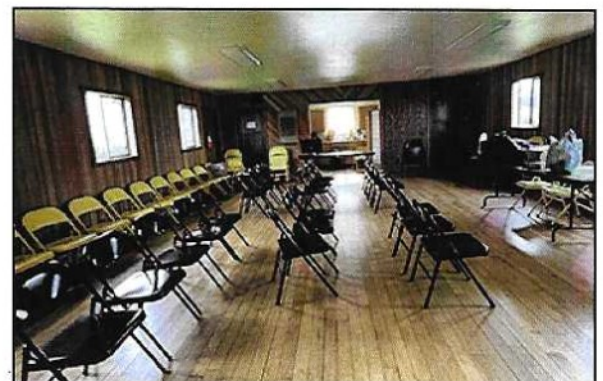


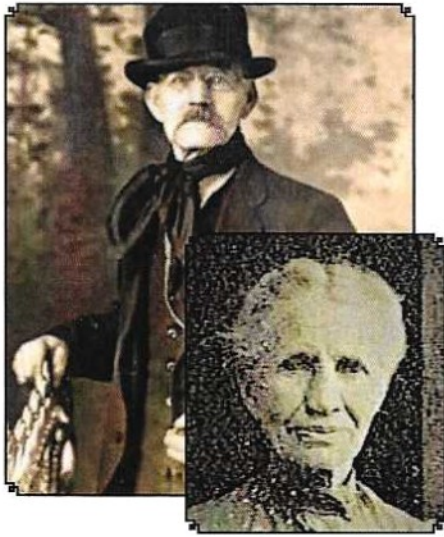
Mar, As the Community meeting in private homes 1952, Mildred Waterbury donated three lots for the construction of a community hall. At the same time, former naval officer housing located across from Tillamook Hospital became available for purchase. Adolph Lindberg, Jack Munstedt, and Bill Sears arranged payment to Mr. Krake of Tillamook to dismantle one of the structures and rebuild it on Bilyeu Avenue, incorporating oak

flooring. The hall was completed through the collective efforts of community members, with Clyde

Crichton crafting the cabinetry. The hall is still used today for Tierra Del Mar association members for their quarterly meetings and other functions.

To learn more about the community of Tierra Del Mar, Diana Sears's book is available through our website at tillamookhistory.org and at the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum. If you know of a historic building in Tillamook County that you believe should be recognized with a marker, please email us at tillamookhistory@gmail.com to request an application.





A DONATION CIRCLES BACK - Kathy Jensen

Many pioneers that settled in Tillamook County donated land for schools to be established. My great-great Grandparents Lars and Sophia Jensen along with the Albert Getchell family (Gitchell) donated land for where Hebo School was located.

Lars was born March 26, 1843 in Denmark, the youngest of five sons and two daughters. As a young married man with the start of a family he looked for better opportunities in America. He and his family arrived in New York in 1872 and moved to New Jersey. After 4 years he decided to take advantage of opportunities offered on the West Coast. The family arrived through Panama to California settling in Bakersfield. A year later he was able to get a land grant with about 160 acres which encompasses much of what is Hebo, Oregon today.

On Feb 25 1898, after the schools in Hebo and Castle Rock were consolidated, the Jensens donated about an acre of land for the construction of a larger school. They gave the land with the stipulation that if the property ever ceased being used for a school it would go back to them or their descendants. The Albert Getchel family also donated a parcel of land that was adjacent.

On Feb 25, 1998, almost a 100 years later, Nestucca Valley School District Acting Superintendent Ray Hanson and School Board Chairman Steve Dotson handed a description of the property symbolizing the deed to two of Lars and Sophia Jensen's descendants - Wayne Jensen and Jack Kellow. Another pie shaped piece of land donated by the Getchels was also being returned to their descendants. Nestucca Valley School District was reconfiguring the district and Hebo Elementary didn't have handicap access, the oil furnace was leaking and there were other problems that it was decided the school was no longer viable.

Wayne Jensen and Jack Kellow were two of 26 heirs who shared in their piece of Hebo history. Most of the 26 heirs lived in the Northwest and only three Wayne Jensen, his sister Arlene Schuh, and Jack Kellow still lived in Tillamook County. Because of so many heirs it was decided to sell the property. Wayne Jensen and Jack Kellow working with attorney C Ray Johnson proceeded in locating all the heirs. They found all but one that had moved to California. They were having difficulty locating her.



At the time I was an elementary school librarian in Tillamook and armed with one of the original versions of a Macintosh computer and dial up access to the internet, I was asked to see if I could find anything on that heir that would help in making contact. The internet was new and you could go down a lot of rabbit holes trying to find information. I finally located a death certificate for that particular heir that listed 2 sons. We found that one son had died with no children and the other son had a phone number listed, but it was not working. C Ray told Wayne and Jack to send a certified letter and if they didn't hear from that son, they had done their due diligence. The heir did reply, he was a probation officer and his number was unlisted. All the heirs were found and agreed to put the property up for sale. The proceeds were divided up in shares for the descendants of each of Lars and Sophia Jensen's children.

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 2026. Our meetings are usually on the second Tuesday of the month, at 1 p.m., at the Tillamook Main Library. Keep checking on our Facebook page for updates.

We are a separate organization from the Tillamook County Pioneer Museum and the 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!

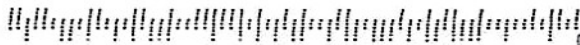


Watch for updates on meetings and events on our facebook page.
www.facebook.com/tillamookcountyhistoricalsociety/

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